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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

PARTY'S ROLE IN ENSURING COMBAT PROFICIENCY STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Capt 2d Rank A. Zlydnev: "On Guard on the Sea Borders"]

[Text] Pacific Fleet naval personnel carry out their unremitting combat watch on and under the water, on land and in the air. As the delegates to the party conference of the Red Banner Pacific Ocean Fleet gathered for their collective discussion of the most vital issues, and were shaking hands, one could hear:

"Long time no see! You haven't been here in ages."

"Yes, we've been wandering the seas and oceans."

And off to one side:

"So here, it turns out, is the one who covered us from the air during training! Excellent work."

"You didn't do so bad yourself."

If you pass by another group of people conversing excitedly, you will see that they are submariners exchanging impressions of a cruise. Another fragment of conversation reaches me and I guess that it is a more experienced ship's commander sharing with younger officers how he rapidly improved the training level of his crew.

And it is in no way strange that all the conversations are about the same subject--the difficult work of the Navy. After all, this is their life and everything else is subordinated to it.

The hands of the clock approached the scheduled time and the hall quickly filled. The conference began its work. Fleet commander, Admiral V. Sidorov, gave a report. The delegates' faces showed concentration and sternness. The words heard from the podium were near to each of them. They impel the audience to listen again to the alarming atmosphere which surrounds the planet today, and keep an eye on the military danger which is ever more clearly in

evidence in various areas of the world. Isn't this what is indicated in the maniacal desire of reactionary U.S. imperialist circles to dictate their conditions to mankind, assert their diktat everywhere, and talk to the USSR in the language of military strength? Isn't this what is indicated by the start of deployment of American intermediate range missiles in Western Europe, the spread of American military bases throughout the world, the occupation of Grenada, and the blatant actions of U.S. ships and troops in the Middle East? Isn't this what is indicated by the fact that the Pentagon is ever more actively using Japanese territory in its attempts to achieve military superiority in the Far East and turn the area into a front line in its nuclear strategy?

The main speaker and others making comments frequently referred to the statements of Yu. V. Andropov, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, of 28 September and 24 November. They fully approved of the assessments of the current international situation made in those documents, and emphasized the only correct conclusion: we must keep our powder dry and raise still further our vigilance and combat readiness.

Combat readiness is a specific concept. Party guarantees of this readiness are also specified. The conference concisely examined the thrusts of this work: improving leadership methods and style; bettering personal examples; the leading role of communists and their organizational and educational role in the masses; the principled struggle of party organizations against indulgences in combat training and complacency; active propagation of advanced experience; and the mobilization of all forces and resources in the name of strengthening discipline and self-discipline, and increasing political vigilance and combat training of naval personnel.

Vice Admiral N. D'yakonskiy, chief of the Political Administration of the Navy and member of the Military Council, stated in his presentation: "In those places where the fundamental issues of party work are seen clearly, and it is organized as a system of interrelated measures and seeks resolutely to achieve its assigned tasks, success is unfailingly attained."

Life itself confirms the correctness of these words. For example, in accordance with the results of the past training year, a number of units and subunits were recognized as the best in the Navy. The crew of the nuclear missile undersea cruiser which initiated socialist competition in the Navy during the past training year was designated as "excellent," having completely fulfilled its commitments. The guards missile cruiser Varyag and the large antisubmarine warfare ship Petropavlovsk were awarded the Pennant of the USSR Ministry of Defense for their courage and military valor. Many Pacific Fleet personnel were presented high state awards.

What is behind these facts? They are backed by the business-like concern of the party organizations about the effectiveness of the training process, selfless labor, the high moral example of communists, and the ability of commanders to rely on the strength and authority of their party organizations.

The communist as a leader--this time, it can be said, occupied a special place at the party conference. The reports of Admiral V. Sidorov and Colonel S. Abramov, secretary of the party committee of the Navy Political Administration, and the presentations of comrades N. D'yakovskiy, B. Pekedov, D. Ivanov, V. Obraztsov and other communists noted that it is necessary, as the party demands today, to raise to a new level the ability of leaders of collectives to work with people; ensure the organic unity of organizational and political work; clearly see the final goals of their work; and constantly seek to attain the planned results. The leader must possess a feeling of great responsibility for the work entrusted to him; resolve questions of service in a statesmanlike manner; and resolutely seek to achieve planning, execution and military discipline, and order and organization in all areas.

The names of communist officers A. Samokhvalov, L. Derenkov and A. Logvinov are well known in the Navy. Their style of work is characterized by closeness to people, personal example, reliance on the initiative and activeness of party and komsomol organizations, and a feeling of a new and high exactingness toward themselves and others. They do not await instructions on every occasion, act with initiative, take responsibility upon themselves, thoroughly think through their decisions, and clearly support them with organizational measures. Party organizations in these locations are the true political nucleus of the collectives and the center of daily ideological and educational activity.

Unfortunately, as the conference noted, party organizations do not fulfill their role in this manner everywhere. In this regard, the reports and speeches, especially of communists Yu. Gudkov, D. Komarov, and A. Ugryumov, emphasized the need to specify the requirements of political organs on party organizations and persistently to impart modern criteria for party work at all levels, including the lowest. The speakers stated that in some party groups and party organizations of military units it has not yet sunk in that improving ideological and mass political work in the spirit of the requirements of the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenum, and improving the style of communists' everyday activities are specific tasks levied also upon them, which obligate them radically to improve their work and achieve visible changes.

Political activities, discussions and other educational measures are to be carried out in a better, clearer and more relevant manner. Confidential contacts with subordinates are to be made a norm of personal relations. Firm exactingness is to be combined with highly cultured behavior befitting an officer. Attention to people and concern about them are to be constantly demonstrated. The soldiers must perceive their commander, supervisor and senior comrade with whom they daily carry out important tasks as models of discipline, performance, selflessness and moral purity. This is the guarantee of success both in educating people and in improving combat readiness.

New and complex equipment is constantly entering the armament of the fleet. It was noted at the conference that the tasks of organizing the effective study of this equipment by specialists of all categories; competently

operating, carefully caring for and skillfully mastering it; and not permitting accidents or breakdowns require ever greater attention on the part of political organs and party organizations. It is necessary to begin with the understanding that the problems of technical and specialist training, as well as those of military training as a whole, are first of all human problems of political maturity, morale and attitude toward training and toward the weapons entrusted in the individual. Each party organization must once again thoroughly think through the system of this work and improve its quality and the effectiveness of its influence. Meanwhile, some party organizations are still weak in their knowledge of the political methods of ensuring successful solutions to the tasks of combat readiness and strengthening military discipline. We need to improve the proficiency of work in this area.

The party conference was conducted in a strict manner. For example, officer communists N. Alkayev, Yu. Ivanov and V. Nonkin, who were insufficiently active in their use of reserves for increasing combat readiness and permitted shortcomings in the organization of their duties, were subjected to sharp criticism. Especially sharp criticism was made of those who violate the norms of party morality and whose personal conduct compromises the title of party member. This concerned in particular officer communists N. Stepanets, V. Korostylev and several others.

The pivotal thought of this collective party discussion was that communists must increase still further their activeness in the struggle for combat readiness, and be examples everywhere and in everything.

Admiral of the Fleet N. Smirnov, first deputy commander-in-chief of the Navy, spoke at the conference.

9069

CSO: 1801/179

ARMED FORCES

AMENDMENTS , ADDITIONS TO MILITARY CRIMINAL LAW

Moscow VEDOMOSTI VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA ROSSIYSKOY SOVETSKOY FEDERATIVNOY
SOTSIALISTICHESKOY RESPUBLIKI in Russian No 51, 21 Dec 83 pp 817-820

[Decree by USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium "Introducing Amendments and Additions
To Some Articles of Criminal Legislation"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decrees:

I. That the following amendments and additions be introduced into the law of
25 December 1958 "On Criminal Responsibility for Military Crimes" (department
of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 1959, No 1, page 10; 1965, No 5, page 58; 1973,
No 48, page 679; 1982, No 42, page 793):

1. To the first part of Article 1, after the word "training" add the words
"or examination."

2. Word Article 7 in the following manner:

"Article 7. Assault and battery on a subordinate by a superior or on a superior
by a subordinate.

Assault and battery by force on a subordinate by a superior or on a superior by
a subordinate--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of from six months to five years".

3. Word Article 8 in the following manner:

"Article 8. Violation of regulatory order regarding the interrelationships
between servicemen of equal rank

a) A violation of regulatory order regarding the interrelationship between
servicemen of equal rank exhibited by a beating or other violence--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of up to two years

b) The same act done by several people which entails the causing of less severe or slight bodily harm--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of up to five years.

c) The act stipulated in points "a" and "b" of the present Article done by a group of people or with the use of weapons and equally causing severe consequences--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of up to 12 years.

4. In Article 10:

Point "a", after the words "more than three days" add the words "but no more than one month";

Point "b" is no longer in effect;

Point "c" after the words "more than 10 days" add the words "but no more than one month, or less than 10 days but more than three days done repeatedly in one year" and make it Point "b";

Add to the Article as Point "c" the following:

"c) the act stipulated in Points "a" and "b" of the present Article, if the willful absence lasts more than one month--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of from three to seven years";

Point "d" is worded in the following manner:

"Point "d". the act stipulated in points "a" and "b" of the present Article done in time of war, if the willful absence lasts more than one day--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of from five to ten years".

5. Add to the law as Article 15 the following:

"Article 15. Violation of the rules for handling weapons and also substances and articles which present a danger to those around

a) Violation of the rules for handling weapons and also ammunition, explosives, radioactive and other substances and articles that present an increased danger to those around and cause bodily harm--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of up to three years.

b) The same act causing bodily harm to several or death--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of from one to ten years.

c) The act stipulated in Point "a" of the present Article causing the deaths of several people or other severe consequences--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of from three to fifteen years."

6. Word Article 19 in the following manner:

Article 19. Violation of regulatory rules for guard duty

a) Violation of the regulatory rules for guard (watch) duty and orders and instructions issued in the development of these rules--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of up to three years.

b) This same act under alleviating circumstances--

Will be punished under the provisions of Disciplinary Regulations of the USSR Armed Forces.

c) The act stipulated in Point "a" of the present Article causing harmful consequences, the prevention for which the given guard (watch) was designated--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of from one to ten years.

d) Violations of the regulatory rules for patrolling which cause harmful consequences and which the given patrol was supposed to prevent--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of up to five years.

e) The act stipulated in Points "a" and "b" of the present Article done during time of war or under battle conditions--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of from two to seven years.

f) The act stipulated in Point "c" of the present Article done during time of war or under battle conditions--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of from three to ten years or death."

7. In the first paragraph of Point "a" to Article 21 place the following words:

"a) Violation of the rules of performance of military duty (military service) regarding the timely revealing and repulsing of a sudden attack on the Soviet Union or in defense and guarantee of USSR security".

8. Word Article 24 in the following manner:

"Article 24. Abuse of authority, exceeding one's authority or not using one's authority

a) A superior's or official's abuse of authority or service position, exceeding one's authority or service position or not using one's authority, if these acts are done systematically or from mercenary motives or other personal interests and in a like manner cause material harm--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of up to five years.

b) This same act causing severe consequences--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of from three to ten years.

c) The act stipulated in points "a" and "b" of the present Article done during time of war or under battle conditions--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of five to 15 years or death.

9. Add to the law as Article 24¹:

"Article 24¹ Negligent relation to service

a) Negligent duty by a superior or official which causes material harm--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of up to three years.

b) The same act under alleviating circumstances--

is punishable under the provisions of Disciplinary Regulations of the USSR Armed Forces.

c) The act stipulated in Point "a" of the present Article causing severe consequences--

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of up to seven years.

d) The act stipulated in Points "a" and "c" of the present Article done during time of war or under battle conditions

is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of from three to ten years.

II. To Part 2 of Article 7¹ of the principles of Criminal Legislation of the Union SSR and the union republics, confirmed by the Law of the USSR of 25 December 1958 (Department of the Supreme Soviet USSR, 1959, No 1, page 6; 1972, No 22, page 176; 1973, No 11, page 157; 1974, No 18, page 275) after the words "violent actions as a superior" add the words "violation of regulatory order of mutual relationships between servicemen of equal rank under aggravated circumstances".

III. The Supreme Soviet Presidium of the union republics is entrusted to bring the legislation of the union republics into conformity with the present decree.

Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Yu. Andropov

Secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium T. Menteshashvili

Moscow, Kremlin, 15 Dec 1983.

12511

CSO: 1801/192

ARMED FORCES

KIRGHIZ KOMSOMOL PLENUM DISCUSSES RELIGION, FOREIGN RADIO, MILITARY

[Editorial Report] Frunze LENINCHIL JASH in Kirghiz 28 July 1983 pages 1 to 3 carries three speeches presented at the 6th plenum of the Kirghiz Komsomol Central Committee held [on 23 July 1983] in connection with the June plenum of the CPSU Central Committee on ideological matters. On page 1 is a 2,700-word speech by V. A. Makarenko, second secretary of the CPKi Central Committee. According to him, it is no secret that there are many of those who do not have a secondary education among the young people of the non-major nationalities. The young of some national minorities have aspirations only for the trade or service sectors. In addition, the young of the local nationality are being insufficiently attracted to the sectors that determine scientific and technological progress. A significant number of the young of some national minorities are under the influence of religion. Moreover, it is necessary for the Komsomol to show constant concern about the national pride of young people turning into arrogance or a disrespectful attitude towards other nationalities and peoples. With the participation of the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee and the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences and on the initiative of the Komsomol Central Committee, a sociological investigation was recently conducted in the republic on the problems of the patriotic and internationalist education of the young. According to Makarenko, preliminary results do not give Komsomol committees the possibility of talking about great achievements in their work. There are still young people in the republic who do not understand the basic content and role of religion in the social structure of socialist and capitalist countries, who simply and nonchalantly accept religion as a worldview, and who are poorly acquainted with the most important documents of the party on this issue. He also emphasized that most discotheques do not measure up to the demands of furthering the moral and esthetic education of young people. On page 2 is a 4,400-word abridged account of the report by O. Abdykalykov, the Komsomol Central Committee first secretary, at the plenum. Besides expressing a concern about problems in general education and professional-technical training, Abdykalykov is also disturbed at some aspects of publishing in Kirghizia. At the present time the Komsomol Central Committee is analyzing the work of the journal LITERATURNYY KIRGIZSTAN [a literary organ of the Writers Union and the Komsomol Central Committee]. In his opinion, the reason for certain shortcomings in it is that the journal's editorial board headed by A. V. Zhirkov is unable to arrange work in the journal style of Komsomol Central Committee organs. Since hostile propaganda tries to impose bourgeois behavioral standards on the young, especially through music, Komsomol

committees must be careful with popular-music groups and discotheques. At the Peshpek Station in Frunze a dance floor was set up without the permission of the cultural establishments or the railway junction committee. The group "Dissonance" led by music school student Bakanin performed their own low-level compositions as well as the works of foreign authors which are alien to Soviet ideology. Bad manners, drunkenness, and immorality reigned in the group. Its activities were halted with the help of the state organs. Abdykalykov also discusses religion, asserting that according to reports, only 37 percent of the young people in the republic hold a clear atheist position. He warns that the Komsomol must remember that religious leaders have adapted themselves to the present conditions and have tried to lend an anti-soviet and nationalistic direction to religious measures. An especially reactionary sect called the Supporters of the Council of Churches has for a long time been conducting activities right next door to the Chuyskiy Rayon Komsomol building. On 2 June 1983 the choir of a religious sect preparing for a holiday held a rehearsal in the Palace of Culture in Tokmak City. He also examined intra-Komsomol affairs, noting that 14 people among the ranks of the Komsomol aktiv were released from service. On page 3 is the 2,100-word speech of Komsomol Central Committee Secretary L. I. Shetsova. She maintains that the data from sociological investigations conducted in various parts of the country show that more than 80 percent of the audience that listens to foreign radio stations consists of young people. "Sometimes young people consider them as a source of information about world events.... Of course, we understand that many young people use these broadcasts only to listen to music and popular groups, but all the same, they are unable to understand very well the political significance of listening to foreign radio stations." She also discussed the preparation of young men for military service, which is especially important in light of the complex international situation. There are a number of shortcomings in physical education, particularly with regard to the low-level of physical education efforts among the masses. Analysis has shown that only 7.1 percent of the young men called into military service from Kirghizia passed the III degree of the GTO ["Ready for labor and the defense of the USSR"] Complex. In addition, while in the Komsomol organizations of the republic there are broad opportunities for the sending of Kirghiz youths to military training establishments, last year Kirghiz young men made up only 0.2 percent of those registered as officer candidates at these schools throughout the country.

CSO: 1833/3

GROUND FORCES

OUTSTANDING TANK COMMANDER PROFILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Jan 84 p 1

Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Colonel V. Bogdanovskiy, Group of Soviet Forces Germany: "Chief of Staff"

Text Tactical training was going on in a complex and dynamic environment. The troops of one of the units of the Zaporozhye Guards Tank Division were required to accomplish a long march, break through a prepared "enemy" defense from the march, conduct offensive operations to great depth, and perform many other missions. This demanded maximum mobilization and great skill and intensity from the commanders and staffs. The senior leader present at the training exercise appraised the work of the unit staff highly, as well as the productive work of the division staff, led by Guards Colonel V. Kondratenko.

Vladimir Petrovich Kondratenko has served in many places and passed many levels of maturity as a commander. He commanded a platoon and a company, was a battalion chief of staff and commander, and was a deputy regiment commander. After he completed with distinction the Military Academy of Tank Forces imeni Marshal of the Soviet Union R. Ya. Malinovskiy, he commanded a tank regiment. In each assignment, Communist Kondratenko devoted himself fully to his work and persistently improved his professional skill. He was awarded the order, "For Service to the Motherland and the USSR Armed Forces," 3d degree, for his successes in combat training and political education, and the training and education of his subordinates.

Since he first became division chief of staff, Kondratenko has been doing everything to make the staff a true fighting organ of control in the hands of the commander. He has constantly kept his finger on the pulse of the life of the units and subunits so that people work in harmony, and display creativity and initiative. He focuses his attention on those issues on which success depends. One of them is the unwavering fulfillment of plans for combat training and political education, and maintenance of strict adherence to regulations in the units. Success here largely depends on knowledge of the true state of affairs in the subunits, and the organization of combat training and competition. Therefore, Guards Colonel Kondratenko does not sit in the office himself and does not permit it of his subordinates. The staff officers are always there where, as it is said, military skill is forged: the firing range, tank training area and the training buildings.

For example, the work of the composite groups is characteristic of the activities of the division staff and political department. This permits them to become more deeply involved in the organization of the training and educational process and give commanders and chiefs of staff on-site assistance in eliminating shortcomings in the organization of combat training and competition. The fact that the subunits commanded by officers A. Bol'shakov, S. Vorob'yev, V. Oleynik and others achieve uniformly high results year after year in combat training is to the great credit of the officers of the staff, led by Guards Colonel Kondratenko. Numerous demonstrations in the system of commanders' training have been conducted with his active participation, and leading commanders and staff officers, guards lieutenant colonels V. Paritskiy, P. Sushko, N. Kukhal'skiy and other officers from the division staff, who are well known in the units and subunits as experienced instructors and highly qualified staff personnel, have shared their experience.

During the past training year, division personnel completely fulfilled the plans for combat training and political education and their socialist obligations. The Zaporozhye Guards Tank Division is one of the best in the Group of Forces. This training year the tankers have made new goals in socialist competition and are actively participating in the movement for best division. And the staff is most actively involved in all this varied work.

Preparations are under way for the scheduled party meeting of communists on the staff. Guards Colonel Kondratenko plans to speak at the meeting. The agenda is on improving the style of work of staff officers in accordance with the requirements of the December 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenum. Comrade Communist Kondratenko has much he wishes to say, most importantly concerning increasing the personal responsibility of each for the impeccable fulfillment of his duties.

9069

CSO: 1801/179

GROUND FORCES

MOTORIZED RIFLE REGIMENT COMMANDER PROFILED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by KRSNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lieutenant Colonel P. Chernenko, Red Banner Far Eastern Military District: "Degress of Maturity, Outstanding Members of th. Armed Forces"]

[Text] Shielding himself with the palm of his hand against the sleet beating in his face, the motorized rifle regiment commander, Guards Lieutenant Colonel N. Kalyshev, surveyed the white expanse of the training area. Advancing rapidly across it toward its assault line was the reinforced battalion under the command of Guards Major V. Semizel'nikov. The performance of these motorized rifle troops was efficient and well-coordinated: attacking from the march, tanks and infantry combat vehicles destroyed an "enemy" strong point. "That's it, Semizel'nikov!" battalion commander Kalyshev thought to himself in silent praise of the action. "That's the way they'd have to do it on a real battlefield...." The regimental commander was now with the battalion with all his heart; he had had faith in the success of the this attack. And there were reasons for this.

....When Semizel'nikov took over the battalion, the latter was not to be found among the top organizations: military discipline was not quite "on target" and the organization did not always adhere to established regulation procedures. All this took its toll, of course, in terms of ratings the unit received in military training and socialist competition. There was enough here to tax the powers of even an experienced commander. Semizel'nikov, however, was a young battalion commander, a little short on experience. He had to have encouragement, somebody to help instill some self-confidence in him and he had to be taught to rely on his party and Komsomol organizations and his deputy commanders. And this is precisely what Kalyshev taught the young commander. He gave him advice on how to plan his duty days more effectively and helped him organize his combat training and socialist competition among his subunits.

A variety of methods and approaches was adopted. The decision was made to introduce the practice of holding demonstration exercises, for example, using the top subunits as models. Guards Lieutenant Colonel Kalyshev put on a great number of them in Semizel'nikov's battalion. He was able to set communist Semizel'nikov and his entire organization on the path of striving for new approaches, new achievements, and he strove to provide them with encouragement and inspiration in this direction.

Time passed, and the battalion which had once been found in the ranks of those which have fallen off the pace was now receiving a high rating in night firing exercises, then distinguishing itself in a marching drill review. It was the beginning of a series of changes for the better.

About his own service and responsibilities and concerns as a commander Guards Lieutenant Colonel Kalyshev says little: "I have my job to do like everybody else" he'll say. He did, however, have some interesting things to say about Guards Major V. Kazak, Guards Lieutenant Colonel A. Kholostenko and the officers of the regimental staff. No matter who you talk to about Kalyshev, you will invariably hear them mention his industry, competence and ability to work with people.

Communist Kalyshev can draw upon a rich fund of practical experience as a commander. Before taking over a regimental command, Nikolay Il'ich had led a platoon, a company and a battalion and served as deputy regimental commander. He recently completed his work at the M. V. Frunze Military Academy.

Kalyshev combines solid knowledge of theory with skill in organizing operations in a given location or situation and an ability to make effective use of the latest weapons and equipment to achieve victory. He teaches this on the basis of actual practice to the officers he has under him as well. The unit's officer training program is a special focus of his attention. Each officers meeting, training session and group exercise is one more step for these officers in the development of their professional skills.

This regiment has been improving its ratings in combat training and competition from one year to the next. Last training year saw its personnel fulfill all their socialist obligations and take first place in the division. This year these Guardsmen have set new competition goals. They have been striving to achieve these new objectives consistently since the very beginning of the winter training period.

The combat training operation was under way. Having regrouped his forces, the "enemy" had launched a counterattack. It looked like it was going to be successful—the attackers were mounting attacks of decreasing intensity. Guards Major Semizel'nikov, however, now decided to employ a stratagem: he pretended to be going over to the defensive, but at the same time sent one of his companies around the enemy flank. At the predesignated time the motorized rifle troops attacked the "enemy" strong point from two directions simultaneously. The brief engagement had ended in victory for the motorized rifle troops. This was Guards Lieutenant Colonel Kalyshev's last exercise in the regiment: he was soon to be promoted to a higher position.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

PROFESSIONAL QUALITIES OF OFFICERS DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Lieutenant General of Aviation A. Goryainov, commander of air forces, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "Pilot Confidence in Combat, The Professional Qualities of the Officer"]

[Text] The missile-carrying aircraft piloted by Lieutenant Colonel V. Nurmukhametov, combat pilot 1st class, slipped smoothly down the runway, lifted off easily and began its climb to altitude. The pilot listened calmly to the commands coming in from the flight operations officer.

Suddenly, however, things got complicated. The pilot lost communications with the ground. He was now one on one with the heavens. But even under these difficult conditions, Lieutenant Colonel Nurmukhametov continued to perform just as effectively and confidently as he had before. Skillfully piloting his missile-carrying aircraft, this experienced aviator succeeded in accomplishing the important combat training mission he had been assigned. His efficient, confident performance won him high praise in the post-flight critique.

Pilot confidence in combat....

When we speak of this we picture a pilot who in any, even the most difficult, situation in the air never loses his courage for even an instant, who will never have the slightest doubt that he will gain his victory over the enemy and who does everything that has to be done to accomplish his mission successfully. This pilot knows full well that the aircraft will be subject to his will in any situation and will be able to exploit its flight and combat capabilities with maximum effectiveness.

It would be wrong to assume, however, that a pilot receives a characteristic such as combat confidence along with the certificate he gets when he graduates from his military school. Painstaking effort is required for a flyer to develop complete confidence in his own capabilities and in his ability to perform without error in difficult situations in the air, to be able to overcome the constraints he unnecessarily imposes upon himself and his inclination to wait for somebody else to tell him what to do and, finally, to become imbued with a deep awareness of his own personal responsibility for the success of a common undertaking.

Aviators of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany are learning from our front-line veterans the lessons of courage, fearlessness and the need to be prepared to pay any price to discharge their duties in defense of the achievements of socialism. Commanders, political personnel and party and Komsomol activists draw extensively upon the heroic legacy of our elder comrades for material for their political education programs.

Guards unit X, for example, has gained some interesting experience in developing combat confidence in its pilots by drawing upon the glorious traditions forged in the fires of the Great Patriotic War and carried on and enriched in the performance of peacetime military duties. Each pilot in this organization begins his period of service with a visit to the military glory room, where he familiarizes himself with the military history of the regiment. The military traditions of our combat aviators are propagandized particularly intensively in the course of flight and tactical-flight training and range firing exercises. As a result of the initiative undertaken by officer communists A. Borisov, V. Zuyenko and other party activists, it has become the practice during these periods to organize discussions with flight personnel on the subject of the heroic deeds of their front-line predecessors in the unit and to put out calendars devoted to the military history of the regiment centered around the "On this day 40 years ago" theme. All these activities help instill in our pilots a desire to perform as boldly as these who have preceded them in front-line combat and to execute resolutely and confidently in pursuit of victory in any engagement.

These qualities of the combat aviator do not, of course, depend upon any single factor, but rather are linked closely to a whole set of conditions. Important among these are solid mastery of combat skills, thorough knowledge on his part of present-day aviation technology, the laws of aerodynamics and tactics, finely honed piloting skills, competence on the part of flight control personnel etc.

As experience demonstrates, the most critical component of pilot confidence is a function primarily of the depth and strength of the faith one has in one's own capabilities, in one's flight and physical training and moral-psychological preparation and in one's ability to deal successfully with any aspect of a mission and with any complication of flight conditions. I would like at this point to refer again to the example of Lieutenant Colonel V. Nurmukhametov. After he landed he was asked the following question:

"What helped you keep control of yourself and remain confident you would be able to complete your mission successfully under these difficult conditions?"

"I didn't resort to anything out of the ordinary," the officer replied calmly. "I did everything just the way I'd have to do it during an exercise or a training session."

Lieutenant Colonel Nurmukhametov's case along with many other examples to be noted in the course of our flight training programs demonstrate convincingly that a pilot is going to perform with considerably more confidence in the most difficult situations in the air if he has developed his practical flying skills to the point where he applies them consciously but at the same time instinctively. What is more, many studies have shown that the availability of this kind of skill can reduce a pilot's simple reaction time some 40-50 per cent, while the time required to perform more

complex operations requiring a number of different motions can be decreased by 35-40 per cent. In other words, procedures a pilot has mastered to the point where they have become automatic responses will go a long way toward freeing his attention from the need to exercise control over his execution of simpler operations he has already mastered and make it possible for him to gather his mental strength for more difficult tasks.

To be able to achieve this level of training and develop confidence in oneself requires tens, and occasionally even hundreds, of training sessions on special training equipment, in the aircraft cockpit and during the execution of flight missions. I would like at this point to single out for special attention the simulator training we give our aviators. The overwhelming majority of our commanders are making skillful, purposeful use of the simulator to enhance the psychological preparation and professional training of their aviators. This is receiving a great deal of attention, for example, in the squadron commanded by Guards Major V. Nikiforov, combat pilot 1st class.

Guards Major V. Nikiforov sets up his simulator training program in such a way as to insure that trainees will be able to rely upon complete recall of a sequence of operations in a complicated situation, develop a set of automated skills and come to a full understanding of what is involved in employing them. With this objective in mind, the training officer puts together a set of basic flight situations, which the pilot-trainee will encounter without any advance warning. This approach entails the variation of training problems with respect to location, phase and time of flight, which makes it possible to develop a comprehensive evaluation of trainee performance in one and the same situation as functions, for example, of flight altitude, distance from air base and weather conditions. Drills like this help intensify the trainee's mental activity, improve his motor coordination and increase his scope of concentration. So, it comes as no surprise to learn that this squadron is known throughout the air force component of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany for the high ratings it gets in combat training.

Important conditions governing any success achieved in programs designed to develop confidence and self-discipline in our flight personnel, to instill proper psychological attitudes toward precise execution of assigned missions will be found to include intensive, objective-oriented indoctrination and well-planned, scientifically based planning in support of the combat flight training program. Let's look, for example, at the "outstanding"-rated Guards fighter regiment where Guards Lieutenant Colonel M. Sandalyuk, a combat pilot 1st class, is assigned. Here we see flight training schedules carefully planned so as to take into account the broadest range of factors—the level of training of each trainee in the program, the appropriateness of the state of a pilot's training to a particular set of weather conditions, the availability of support equipment, the level of professional training of the engineering and other aircraft specialists involved as well as a great many other factors. The regiments commanders and political personnel try to anticipate and take into account even details which at first glance would appear trivial, but which can nevertheless affect the rhythm of events on the flight schedule and the effectiveness with which they can utilize each minute of flight time.

Judicious, methodologically correct determination of the number of flights to be scheduled and the sequence in which they should be flown, work loads increased at

proper intervals and strict adherence to established procedures all help make it possible to conduct flight operations in a calm, businesslike atmosphere, which in turn has the direct effect of increasing pilot confidence and instilling in them a desire to accomplish their assigned missions with the highest performance quality possible.

When plans are not well thought out, when planning is not a smooth, unhurried process we will find that this has a markedly negative impact upon the quality and effectiveness of a flight training program. These problems have been repeatedly identified in the air regiment to which Lieutenant Colonel F. Perekrestov is assigned. The day before night flight training exercises were scheduled to be held here, for example, it was discovered that plans called for a number of crews to be taking off at the same time despite the fact that the regulations governing flight operations procedures require proper time intervals between takeoffs. All this created confusion in the flight program and caused emotional difficulties for the pilots.

A flight schedule is not simply a sheet of paper with a list of pilots' names and indicating which one is to perform what exercise. It is, rather, an order which perceptibly intensifies the emotional and volitional processes in an aviator which orient him in directions insuring high-quality performance on each training mission. Practical every-day experience demonstrates once again that the rhythm of flight operations will be smoother, proper procedures followed more rigorously both on the ground and in the air and, accordingly, pilot combat confidence higher in units in which each pilot sees himself as bearing personal responsibility for insuring that the flight program can be followed without disruption or deviation.

Well-thought out scheduling and planning, however, is only part of the overall effort involved in developing the qualities of the true air-combat warrior in our own pilots. The most important thing is to actually do everything you have planned exactly as planned and with high levels of performance quality. The flight operations officer bears primary responsibility for insuring rigorous implementation of scheduled training missions. It is he who is responsible for carrying out the commander's decisions, coordinating the operations of the various services involved, directing the activities of our aviators both on the ground and in the air and for assigning specific pilots specific missions. Any mistake he makes could cost very dearly.

In the course of a recent tactical flight training exercise, Senior Lieutenant M. Pletnev began to question the readings he was getting from one of his navigation instruments. As a result he failed to get his aircraft onto the proper landing approach. Finding himself at a loss in this situation, Senior Lieutenant Pletnev continued his flight with flaps and landing gear extended, which almost resulted in a serious flight incident.

The person primarily responsible for this situation, of course, was the pilot himself. Equally responsible, however, was officer B. Pogorelov, who was in charge of the flight operations group. This occasion showed the experienced, well-trained aviator to be on the complacent side, which had its immediate effect upon the performance of the specialists working under him.

This example demonstrates once again that the flight operations officer is a manager above all of people, when it becomes necessary to be taking into account the level of their training, the degree to which they demonstrate personal efficiency and discipline and the unique characteristics of their psychological make-up.

...The winged machines streak into the sky with a thunderous roar. These aviators are performing with the same assurance under any conditions as did their predecessors in the unit during the Great Patriotic War.

8963

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

ROLE PSYCHOLOGY PLAYS IN TRAINING DEMONSTRATED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel N. Atrokhov: "Barrier, Problems in Pedagogy and Psychology"]

[Text] The fighters are taking off on a mission. When the thunder of the after-burners dies away you can hear the wind howling out over the flying field, beating in steady, persistent gusts against the skin of the aircraft parked neatly in formation, hums through the antennas, probes all the nooks and crannies on the base, in the process stirring up some disquieting thoughts. For the fact is that flight commander Captain S. Korolev has plenty on his mind to concern him even without thinking about the weather. How is his man, Lieutenant A. Morozov, going to do on his check flight?

This experienced methods specialist has already asked himself many times whether there was, after all, any real reason to be concerned about the way the flight could turn out. It seemed to him that everything possible had been done. The course of training in piloting technique given this young officer, who had only recently arrived from school, adhered rigorously to one basic principle—proceed from the simple to the complex. During flights together in their two-man trainer, Korolev, ever on the lookout for opportunities to find fault, followed the lieutenant's performance closely to check the consistency with which he maintained flight conditions, observed safety regulations and made full use of his navigational systems and monitoring instruments. He gave particular attention, however, to his trainee's performance during landing, since from all his experience as an instructor that it is precisely at this point, from the inner marker to touchdown, that errors lie in wait for the young pilot, any one of which could prove fatal.

So yesterday once again mentally tracing the course of Morozov's training, from his first familiarization flight to this decisive check flight, Korolev felt confident that the lieutenant would be successful: he would be certified to solo. And when the squadron commander, Lieutenant Colonel V. Mukhin, asked him whether he didn't think it was still a little early for this, he replied: "No, it's just the time for it."

But now that was yesterday, during the preliminary preparations. Today he was beginning to feel a little uneasy for some reason. And this uneasiness grew as the hand on the clock approached the time at which the lieutenant was scheduled

to take off. The reason? The commander had caught a glimpse of the young pilot's face, now pale with apprehension, just before he climbed into the cockpit. Korolev didn't like the looks of it. Was he really losing his courage?

The wind seemed sharp, blowing right through, enough to make you shiver a little. Huddling up, Korolev followed the fighter intently as it taxied for takeoff.

"Well, bon voyage," the captain wished it silently.

Everything went well as first. Morozov taxied confidently out onto the runway, adjusted his course indication system, lowered his flaps to takeoff position and, after being cleared for takeoff, switched on the afterburning system. The aircraft shuddered, then streaked down the runway as though thrusting into it with a shaft of fire. The lieutenant maintained proper direction in his takeoff, retracted the landing gear at the proper time and skillfully took the aircraft into the circle. Sitting in the rear cockpit, the squadron commander nodded his head approvingly each time the pilot executed one of his procedures properly.

The difficulties began after the fourth turn. The haze on the landing approach was getting thicker and thicker. Morozov got a little confused and started making mistakes. His alignment point was too far from the runway, he started his descent too soon and if the checker hadn't intervened, he would have put the thing down in the dirt far from the end of the runway....

During the postflight critique Captain Korolev received a strict reprimand for having put an undertrained pilot up for his check flight. In his own heart of hearts, though, the flight commander didn't see things this way. He knew that his man's failure was the result of inadequate psychological preparation, of an inability to concentrate at a critical moment, to overcome excessively high levels of tension and to channel all his willpower and energies toward accomplishment of his flight mission. Korolev knew that these shortcomings cause even experienced pilots to make "student" mistakes on occasion. What was it that kept Morozov from getting control of his nerves? The problem here consisted in more than simply the fact that the conditions worsened—he had experienced that more than once during familiarization flights. The whole problem in this instance was more of a subconscious barrier: there's that tough examiner sitting back there in the back seat! That had unsettled the lieutenant even before he took off. And the result was this disappointing failure!

The flight commander was no less disappointed than his man, but he decided firmly against getting into any conversation with him until he had settled down a little. Staying alone with Morozov following the postflight critique, Korolev looked sympathetically at the frustrated lieutenant and asked him quietly:

"Tell me all about it, what was it?..."

Morozov looked guiltily into his commander's face and spread his arms in a gesture of helplessness in front of him:

"It's a complete mystery to me, comrade captain. I never had any trouble with that part of the flight when you were flying with me, but when I flew with the lieutenant colonel I just couldn't clear my mind of all the doubts: what if I mess up? The squadron commander's not going to clear me for soloing. What a humiliation that'll be! I just didn't have the strength to get a hold of myself."

The lieutenant, dispirited, fell silent. The commander understood the emotions his man was experiencing. Morozov's frankness confirmed him in his conviction that there simply could not have been any other reason for his poor performance. He knew the lieutenant as his hardest-working student. That's the way he had been in flight school, and, judging by an entry from his training record, that's what he had been able to prove himself here in his unit. Diligence, however, is one thing; an ability to control one's emotions is something else again entirely. The young pilot in this story was found wanting here, wanting in this ability. The result was failure in his first serious test. It is far from being any simple thing to fly a modern-day aircraft like this. Even professional skill and thorough knowledge are not enough here. You also have to know yourself and on top of that be able to control both yourself and your aircraft at the same time.

Korolev recalled the first conversation he had had with the squadron commander in his position as flight commander. The latter had declared to him point blank: "Do you know why people are making a lot of errors in piloting technique here in this flight? The training methodology is obsolete. It has fallen behind present-day requirements. Give this some thought." Korolev had already had a chance to see and experience for himself how rigorous the requirements placed upon today's aviation commander really are, what stiff demands are made on his training and background in theory and methods. Whatever the position he had held, he had never been able to get along without being well-rounded in his own training and preparation. You can't give primary emphasis here to just your tactics and hardware alone, no matter how complex they are. You also have to have a solid grasp of present-day pedagogy and psychology, knowledge providing an answer to the question of how you work with a man interacting with a piece of complex equipment, how do you deal with him positively and make sure you exercise the desired influence on his character?

A flight commander has a lot to worry about, particularly the commander of a flight that's fallen off the pace. The plan for total flying time and the various types of flight training was not being fulfilled. After taking a good look at the situation here and analyzing it from all angles, Korolev could finally see that the whole problem stemmed from the fact that inadequate attention was being given to planning for the day, week and flight shift and what planning was done was not taking account of the individual characteristics of individual pilots and the differences in the levels of training among them. It was going to be necessary to abandon outmoded training methods. The decision was made to hold regular post-flight critiques which would cover the shortcomings and errors identified in the course of a flight and involve the participation of both the flight and technical personnel of the flight. This would teach people to think and develop a sense of responsibility for flight operations.

Practical experience has now demonstrated that the course taken was the right one. Things in the flight gradually improved, and the unit ultimately moved up into the ranks of the best organizations.

So Morozov had made a mess of things. A great disappointment, to be sure. At the same time, though, his commander was gratified to see that this young officer also realized that what had happened was more than simply a personal failure. He had let his whole unit down and disappointed everybody. That's what struck him first. It had, after all, not been for nothing that he had been attending the postflight critiques of the errors of other pilots and giving serious thought to the significance of each one.

Korolev's private conversation with the lieutenant had the desired effect.

"You know, comrade captain," he admitted, "I was afraid more than anything else at that point that people were going to laugh at my botch job. That was the idea I couldn't shake. But then I saw it wasn't like that at all: they are going through everything for me. This is a psychological barrier I'm trying to get over."

"I have faith in you," Korolev told him, speaking gently as if to his son.

"I can see...it's as though you've grown up a little during the doubts and uncertainties of the last few days, so get ready for another check flight."

The sky was clear over the air base, but 30 kilometers or so to the south a dense layer of 10-point clouds could clearly be observed making its way slowly toward the air base. It was anticipated that the flights were going to be conducted in difficult weather conditions.

Morozov climbed into his cockpit, reported his readiness to the flight operations officer and at his command started his engine. He was in a good frame of mind. He was impatient to get into the air. Doesn't this attitude indicate confidence more than anything else? He did everything calmly and coolly just as though there wasn't anybody in the rear cockpit or as though the person who was back there was the instructor, the flight commander, he was accustomed to. Without taking his eyes off his instruments (they encountered the clouds along the way), Morozov brought his aircraft around onto the landing approach. The runway came into view at 200 meters altitude. Then the ring of the inner marker. Turning his head slightly to the left, the pilot fixed his eyes on his alignment point. He tightened up a little on the engine speed, and the aircraft, touching down gently, went streaking down the runway.

Morozov was smiling. Korolev caught it from a distance. So the flight was a success after all, and in the struggle for the self-control this required the young officer had won a difficult victory. Having now overcome the psychological barrier, he felt stronger and more confident. He now had the feeling of having joined the ranks of today's aviators. And for the inspiration and encouragement, for his ability to understand his men, Morozov cast a particularly appreciative glance at his first instructor, the man who had opened the way into the skies for him once more.

8963

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NAVAL FORCES

POPULARIZING SERVICE IN SOVIET NAVY

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Nov 83 p 6

[Article by Timur Gaydar: "In Special Instances--Serving the Soviet Union"--Reference article from Moscow PRAVDA 15 November 1983 p 6, published in USSR Report Military, JPRS UMA-84-007, 19 January 1984--]

[Text] "There are special instances when by command directive the naval flag is never lowered." --Navy Protocol and Ceremonial.

They plow through the Mediterranean, sometimes in groups, sometimes alone, each with its own course, each carrying out its own mission. Sometimes, having chosen suitable depths and ground, they come to anchor.

When a ship is at anchor, the naval flag is hoisted at 0800. By this time the ship's day is well underway: reveille, exercises, cleanup, breakfast, inspection and machinery run up. The sun stands high and at night the water is black. Later, right before dawn, it is the color of stainless steel and already taking on its normal and always unbelievable azure blue color.

Sometimes a ship will remain at anchor in the daytime too. But, most often the capstan will rumble, the heavy anchor chain crawl along the deck and your legs feel the impatient tremor of the awakened turbines. The headwind strikes your face.

"Board number 127, You're looking good." They semaphored from a British cruiser passing by the Soviet naval ship.

"Thank you. You're looking fine too." They responded.

Encounters with NATO vessels are a common thing in the Mediterranean. Recently the London newspaper THE TIMES recalled that about 20 years ago the Mediterranean was considered to be a "NATO pond". The US Sixth Fleet has been based here for a long time with its aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines. Squadrons of the British Royal Navy cruise here. Therefore, it is only natural and necessary that our navy ships constantly sail the Mediterranean waters to ensure the security of the USSR.

They come here for a long time and receive mail and newspapers periodically. The deputy commander for political affairs of the tender "Dmitriy Galkin" told us: "If one of the men didn't receive a letter with the regular mail, everyone

on the ship pays that person special attention until the next mail call." It would be good if the sailors' wives and fiancées who happen to read this would bear his words in mind.

But practically speaking, everything that I had an occasion to see and hear on our military ships in the Mediterranean confirms that the Soviet sailors staunchly endure the extended cruise, understand the importance of their mission and get well accustomed to the rhythm of the sailing life.

For all its outward monotony, the life is not monotonous. There are no two identical moorings at sea, no two identical firing exercises, just as there are no two identical sunsets at sea. The commanding officers of the ships are especially content with an extended cruise. The shore with its temptations and distractions is far away and all the crew's attention is given to the ship, the job and combat training.

An emergency drill begins.

As a mass of dark blue--in dark blue shorts and dark blue short-sleeved shirts--the tanned sailors rush about the decks and gangways. In an instant the hatches and doors are battened down and there is not a soul on the upper deck. With its arrow-shaped missiles swinging and its radar antennas turning, the ship knifes through the sea. Next comes training at the battle stations, exercises in fighting for survival.

Towards evening, as if by command from the bridge, the sea again changes its attire. It blushes with the fiery sunset and then, having faded, covers itself in white and finally becomes bluish-black. The sea is cut in two by the saber scar of the moon's path.

"Ready, mark! Ready, mark!" Watch officers are being trained on the wings of the conning bridge. In the stellar medley they catch the alphas of Pegasus and Aquila using sextants and chase the stars from the sky to the nearly indiscernible horizon. In the age of satellites and electronics, the ancient method of determining the ship's position by the stars must not lose its importance.

Meanwhile, aft on the helicopter pad, the ship has its own galaxy. Separated in the daytime by steel bulkheads and decks, gunners and signalmen, enginemen and boatswains, buddies and fellow townsmen, and peers get together for the evening break. The sky becomes darker and darker and the lights from the last cigarettes before bedtime or night watch grow brighter and brighter.

Although service in the Mediterranean is not easy, it has become second nature for Soviet navy men. They have become accustomed to its intense summer heat and its gales from October through March; accustomed to taking on fresh water and fuel on the open sea from tankers, to taking off under the skies on the dancing launch and, having taken aim, instantly jump over to the ship's ladder; accustomed to distinguishing at first glance all types of NATO vessels and aircraft and even know where and at what anchorage which kind of fish can be caught, having cast over the side the thick nylon fishing line with sinker, similar to a weight from an old grandfather clock.

But one day in this monotonous variety there came news that instantly spread throughout the ship from the bridge to the boilerrooms and machinerrooms: there would soon be a foreign port call.

We were sitting with the gunnery commander of the cruiser "Zhdanov", Captain 3rd Rank Evgeniy Nikolaevich Glushchenko, in his cabin. The sun was starting to set and a shaft of light gushed through the porthole into the cabin. The sun beams reflected off the washstand mirror and fell on the gunnery commander's face. The captain squinted, which gave his face a worried and even a hurt expression.

"Well, okay," he said. "That's fine for the forward line. What about the defense?" The cruiser "Zhdanov" and its escort vessel "Pylkiy" were going into the Greek port of Piraeus and Glushchenko had been directed to form a soccer team from the ship's sailors, petty officers and officers in the event the Greek sailors suggested a friendly match. Here the captain frowned and raised his shoulders which bore the burden of this responsibility.

"The last time we played abroad was in France. But since then all of those sailors have transferred to the reserve..."

Oh, Evgeniy Nikolaevich! Frown or not, it makes no difference, even now with your shoulder boards with two stripes, one can still see in you that 10-year-old boy from a mining settlement, the desperate soccer player, whose father once took him to the Crimea on leave and, not knowing that it would decide his son's fate, took him on a trip to Sevastopol'.

From that first encounter with the fleet, Evgeniy Glushchenko had straight A's in school and was first-class in sports, so as later to pass confidently through the stiff competition at the higher naval school and 10 years ago to climb aboard the cruiser as a lieutenant, commander of a battery.

As it is known, our Navy's ships can show up in foreign ports for visits, official and unofficial, or make port calls, business or emergency.

In the 10 years Glushchenko has served on the cruiser, it has never been forced to put in to a foreign port to take shelter from a gale, to repair damage or for other emergency situations. There had been many business calls, but this was his fourth official visit; Split, Messina, Toulon and now Piraeus.

An official visit is a special event.

A small flag with three stars flutters over the "Zhdanov", announcing the presence onboard of Admiral A.M. Kalinin, Commander of the Red Banner Black Sea Fleet. The "Pylkiy" was taking the lead, its screws churning up a white froth from the blue and it seemed like our ship was speeding along snowdrifts.

A major cleanup had been done on the cruiser. The copper of the handrails and the deck's copper plating under the universal caliber turrets sparkled. The ship's copper bells glistened. The wood planking, drying off, was beginning to shine with a warm yellow glow.

Those not on watch were busy preparing for the visit. Electric irons were hissing in the seamen's quarters. The cruiser's political affairs deputy, Captain 3rd Rank Gyaluyev was examining display stands made by the ship's artists depicting life in the USSR. At the booms near the launches, Major Romanov had found a cozy nook. Hidden from sight, concentrated and aloof with a stopwatch in his hand, he was directing a melody which only he could hear now. Tomorrow when the national salute rings out--21 shots at 10 second intervals, the band would begin to play the Greek national anthem. The last bar of the Soviet Union Hymn had to end with the 21st shot, not a second later nor a second sooner.

In the book "Navy Protocol and Ceremonial" it states: "Official visits are organized in accordance with a program arranged beforehand between the states concerned, including paying certain honors to officials and performing official ceremonies." But the additional word "friendly" is usually also added to the title "official".

Why visit one another without friendship?

From the time the visit to Greece became known, there was a run on all of the books in the ship's library dealing with that country, beginning with "Ancient Greek Mythology". Just ask any sailor and he would tell you: the population is about ten million, about two-thirds urban, diplomatic relations with the USSR established in 1924... Heard in the sailors' conversations were the names of admirals Sviridov, Ushakov, Senyavin. Someone with detailed knowledge would tell of the night attack of the fireships in Cesme Bay, about the Battle of Navarino--squadrons of the Russian fleet played a special role in freeing Greece from the rule of the Ottoman Empire.

The political workers, speaking over the ships address system, place much emphasis on the present and tell about the fact that prime minister of Greece, Andreas Papandreou, speaking in May of this year in Komotini, again declared the need to turn the Balkans into a nuclear-free zone... They cite data about the successful development of economic relations between Greece and the USSR.

It is interesting that two-thirds of the trolley bus fleet in Athens is Soviet made, 90 percent of the black-and-white TV's manufactured in Greece are equipped with Soviet picture tubes...

The reports coming from the cruiser's radar posts add their own share of actuality to this historical, geographical and economic information. They regularly inform about the appearance of airborne targets. The NATO maneuvers "Display Determination" have been going on in the eastern part of the Mediterranean since 17 September; Greece refused to participate in them. There have been reports on the radio about Greece's protest to the US government regarding the violation of its airspace over islands in the Aegean Sea by American military aircraft.

In the evening the melodies of Theodorakis pour out from the speakers in the cabins and quarters. It is amazing: the fervor and pensiveness, the gaiety and sadness can be heard in his music, not working against but supplementing one another.

NAVAL FORCES

SUBMARINE JUDGED OUTSTANDING EIGHT YEARS IN A ROW

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Jan 84 p 2

Article by Capt 1st Rank D. Gnatyuk: "Is It Easy To Be Best?"

Text The submarine Pskovskiy Komsomolets approached the strait area in a dense fog. Visibility was minimal. The commander, Capt 3d Rank O. Koval'chuk, radioed the situation to headquarters and requested an "OK" to cross the narrows.

It was a difficult situation. On the one hand it was important for the submarine to cross the strait as soon as possible, as dictated by the conditions of its mission. On the other hand, there was substantial risk in crossing the narrows under conditions of poor visibility. Therefore, not knowing the details of the situation in the area of the submarine, and located hundreds of miles from it, the headquarters could not simply insist on following the stipulated movement schedule. Capt 3d Rank Koval'chuk was told to make the final decision himself.

None of us doubted that Koval'chuk would find a way to cross the narrows on schedule. And we were not mistaken. The next radiogram from the submarine told of its successful crossing of the strait area.

Seemingly, there was nothing unusual in this situation. Every commander must be able to make an independent decision when located away from base. But Capt 3d Rank Koval'chuk is among those especially experienced and competent commanders who are truly capable of independently solving the most difficult and unexpected tasks arising at sea. He is always extremely circumspect, but at the same time does not shy away from necessary risk, and in emergencies not only is able to rapidly mobilize himself, but also bring to bear all the reserve capabilities of the crew.

Even in this situation, not every commander would take upon himself responsibility for such a bold step. And if the headquarters does not give specific instructions one can make an even more careful decision. Knowing personally many submarine commanders, I don't think I could immediately name another who would act so confidently in the most difficult situations. In this the stable successes of the Pskovskiy Komsomolets attract one's attention. For eight years in a row the submarine has carried the title of "excellent." This means

that the submariners led by Capt 3d Rank Koval'chuk have fulfilled most of their combat training tasks with the highest rating. For its successes in combat training, political education, and socialist competition, the crew was recently awarded the Red Banner of the Komsomol Central Committee as "Best Naval Vessel Carrying the Komsomol Name."

The Pskovskiy Komsomolets, as is traditional, concluded the past training year as best in the unit. The submarine was praised, and it was recommended that the experience of its crew be studied and put in practice on other ships. I believe that the constancy of its successes may be most important, going beyond the interests of a single unit.

Unfortunately it frequently happens that military collectives, having achieved certain goals in competition and increasing combat readiness, suddenly lose what they have achieved.

There is a ready list of reasons given for such incidents: the collectives became contented, conceited, and rested on their laurels. Yes indeed this does happen at times, especially with capable but insufficiently experienced and mature commanders. A brilliant success is achieved and the commander believes that he can do anything. He relaxes his demands on himself and his subordinates, and the party organization does not demonstrate the necessary exactingness and high principles. However, there are also more complex reasons undermining the stability of successes in military collectives, which do not always receive the required attention or practical consideration.

One such reason is the breaking of tradition and continuity when changing a ship's command. A crew achieves high results, consolidates them, and becomes successful in the unit. And right away the commander and political officer are promoted and depart, and the senior assistant is sent away for training. In general this is a natural process. Who better to promote than the best? But the interests of the service require that performance not suffer, and that the change of command not harm the ship or cause a reduction of the crew's level of readiness.

Undoubtedly different officers have different capabilities. There are commanders who have special organizational talent, teaching skills and tactical gifts. The crews achieve the highest results under their leadership. But, unfortunately, the leaders themselves do not always take care, and senior supervisors are not always sufficiently far-sighted to solidify these successes as the norm and as a point of reference for their successors. A decline occurs in the ship's record which is not merely unpleasant but impermissible, and much time is then required to achieve once again that which was already achieved, and what should have been maintained, strengthened and developed in the interests of the Navy.

It cannot be said that it has been easy for the Pskovskiy Komsomolets to maintain its long-term stability, or that it has been simple for its crew constantly to be a leader. But on this ship there is a firm basis for stability: continuity; most importantly of the officers. Its commander, Capt 3d Rank Koval'chuk, has served on the ship since he was a lieutenant.

At first he gleaned a great deal from the former commander. The ship's traditions, the crew's customs and the healthy moral atmosphere became the natural norms of life for the officer. Pride in the ship, the struggle to increase its prestige, and a desire to be first in everything became a part of his professional and public activeness.

Today the young officers joining the ship learn from Capt 3d Rank Koval'chuk love and devotion to their ship, through which naval personnel most vividly display their loyalty to the Navy.

Capt 3d Rank Koval'chuk's style of work, which has brought him success as a ship's commander, will not leave with him, should he move on to another duty assignment. This style has found strong successors, including among the young officers. The best commander's qualities, taken from Koval'chuk, are manifested ever more distinctly in the character and actions of Sr Lt A. [Name]. Of course the senior lieutenant's fate could turn out in any number of ways, but it is already now clear that he has all the capabilities to grow into a good ship's commander. This officer would most like to advance in service on the Pskovskiy Komsomolets. And this devotion is the guarantee that he (in the best traditions of the ship) will always devote all his efforts to his home ship.

Of course, naval service is dynamic, and reassignments of officers occur regularly, according to plans, and not only within large units and units, but also within fleets. The interests both of the service and the officers themselves so require. But it must not be forgotten that the interests of the service also require that the progressive improvement of each of our ships be maintained.

The cruiser Groznyy is well known in all the fleets for the stability of its successes. It has earned the Navy Prize many times in competitive combat exercises, and is noted for the exemplary discipline, cohesion and high military skill of its crew. To a large extent the Groznyy owes its stability to the fact that almost all of its commanders came from its own ship's officers. For some time the Groznyy was in maintenance. This is a time when it is difficult to maintain the personnel in top form and to strengthen traditions. But after its maintenance the cruiser again demonstrated that the level of training and skill of its personnel had not diminished, and that the ship's reliability in accomplishing its missions remains high as before. The Groznyy's successes in the past training year are eloquent confirmation of this. It was first in the unit in socialist competition.

At times one hears from officers, especially young officers, that service on the same ship dulls interest in one's duties and is of necessity professionally limiting. Yes, superficial people, seeking easy successes and a rapid career rise, that is those who think primarily about their own interests, sometimes do not see the opportunities to show their abilities fervently during lengthy service on the same ship. They are just the ones to become giddy from success, and are likely to be conceited and complacent. Such officers develop a state of mind in which once they achieve something they begin to believe that they have achieved everything, and that henceforth everything will run by itself.

During my years in service I have frequently met officers who surprised me with their rapid achievements and were considered greatly promising, but who suddenly permitted failures which had serious consequences not only for themselves, but also for the subunits and ships which they commanded. For example, this happened with Capt 2d Rank K. Khaytin. He took on a crew which was rather weak, rapidly set about establishing order, set high goals for himself and his subordinates, and was able to mobilize the men to achieve them. Evidently the officer considered his personal task to be completed. Therefore, he was prepared to be promoted but not to continue commanding the ship. Consolidating and stabilizing his success required serious, thorough efforts. But the officer was not up to them. The crew lost its leadership just as quickly as it had earned its place among the leaders.

There is no doubt that to achieve a sharp improvement in the crew requires great and energetic efforts. But the struggle to stabilize what has been achieved and to build on success requires efforts just as great, and more long-lasting. Here the commander's thoughtfulness, thoroughness, ability to see beyond trivia to the large issues, study, and use of all available reserves are of special importance.

The Pskovskiy Komsomolets differs from many others also in that on this ship no details are left unattended. This is not merely due to the precision and exactness of the subunit commanders and personnel. It also stems from the standards of the crew, which are consolidated as traditions and favorably influence all aspects of the activity of the military collectives. For you see, little things, even in living conditions, which each sailor deals with on a daily basis, either foster in him the habit of always and in every respect relating to his work with the highest conscientiousness and sense of responsibility, or they teach him to pay attention to minor violations, but violations nonetheless, of military order.

The commander's talent of Capt 3d Rank O. Koval'chuk is remarkable for its completeness. He is able to inspire his subordinates to the most difficult tactical pursuits, demands total effort from all to improve the ship's combat readiness, and in the very same way motivates the crew to deal with everyday matters. And how often it is that the loss of past achievements begins with little things and small compromises.

Yes, all this is true I am told. But not all the ships in the unit can be the best. Of course not. But all can achieve high results in socialist competition. This is the main goal of competition: In putting forward the best to equal them and consistently build on what has been achieved. And the more stable are the leader's successes and the greater his authority and positive influence in other crews, the higher is overall stability--a most important component of our combat readiness.

9069

CSO: 1801/179

NAVAL FORCES

CAREER OF SUCCESSFUL SUBMARINER OUTLINED

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 25 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by V. Sorokin, special correspondent for SOVETSKIY PATRIOT: "In The Assigned Quadrant"]

[Text] The critical stage of the cruise had begun. It was necessary to detect a theoretical enemy, secretly break through his defenses and make a successful torpedo run on the primary target, a transport ship.

Dawn found the submarine in the assigned quadrant. Warrant Officer Yuriy Khvostik, who was on duty at the sonar station, pricked up his ears. Through his earphones he heard the remote sound of a blow, then another. It was apparent that this was not the sound of propellers. Then what was it? The blows were following one after another and showing up as splashes on the screen. There was no doubt that an airplane was putting in a radioacoustical buoy.

The ship changed course abruptly. From time to time headphones crackled and rustled. The warrant officer barely moved the tuner and something whistled, but his face remained as calm as before. This sound was the usual 'voice' of the ocean.

Indicators flickered and light dots shinningly drew a circumference on the screen. But then the warrant officer caught sight of a small, pulsating spot. Judging by everything, the enemy ship was closing.

Everyone in the compartment fell silent. Observation posts were reporting information to the commander.

"The central screw sound is at a bearing of 80."

"Mark!" answered the captain.

"The screw sound is 240 rpms. An anti-submarine ship."

Five minutes later still further information came in. Judging from all the data, the ships were protecting the primary target, the very same one that this crew had to destroy. They had to break through this barrier.

The ship went to maximum depth. Perhaps now it would be possible to try and break through the encirclement. A course change was ordered. Reports went to the captain from the observation posts. Bearing and distance to the targets continually changed. Zhukov evaluated the information, drawing a schematic of the "enemy" force disposition.

The submarine Chelyabinskiy Komsomolets carefully slid through the silent deep, trying to steal up on the primary target. Then on the display screen a large, brightly outlined spot began to dance and the sonar operator reported: "Bearing 170. Screw noise."

The ship remained on battle course, trying to get an advantageous position for firing.

Training torpedoes shot out of the forward tubes. The ship "struck" the transport and now had to break off from the anti-submarine ships.

People in the compartments prepared to fight for their lives. But the ASW ships fortunately went off on a false trail. The grenades used to simulate depth charges thrown by the ships exploded very far away. Having completed their mission, the ship broke off from the "enemy". Chelyabinskiy Komsomolets commander Captain 2nd Rank Georgiy Nikolayevich Shukov dropped in on the compartments and congratulated the submarines for successfully completing the mission.

Zhukov had traveled difficult roads. Georgiy grew up in the southern Urals in the village of Smorodinka, 7 kilometers from the city of Miass. In school, mathematics, physics and chemistry came very easy. When he was a senior-classman he heard that the name Chelyabinskiy Komsomolets had been conferred on one of the ships in the Red Banner Northern Fleet. He wanted to be assigned to that specific ship.

When he completed secondary school he turned in an application to the navy officer training school. He studied for 5 years in Leningrad and served for 2 years on an escort ship. Finally, after numerous requests, he was reassigned to the submarine force. He served on one ship for 7 years, making his way from group commander to senior assistant to the commander. And 2 years ago he was appointed captain of the Chelyabinskiy Komsomolets.

He knew what responsibility lay on his shoulders. The crew of that specific ship had to be in the forefront. And a lot depended on the man at the helm.

He was not afraid of troubles. He had passed the commander training school under such an experienced submariner as Captain 2nd Rank Vyacheslav Ivanovich Burunov. He did his best to have his crew continually improve their military training.

The Chelyabinskiy Komsomolets came out in first place in the socialist competition among submarine crews and heard the thanks of the Red Banner Northern Fleet commander more than once.

The ship cruises far out to sea. However it is tied to the Soviet land and with the Urals with thousands of threads. Upon returning from their regular cruise, the sailors write their fellow countrymen and describe how they did their duty. Traveling out to Chelyabinsk Oblast on leave, ship's commander Georgiy Zhukov considers it his duty to drop in on the Komsomol Obkom and report how his crew fulfilled its military duty. In turn, he is interested in how competition for the right to serve on his specific ship is going and how DOSAAF is training specialists in the Chelyabinsk and Magnitogorsk naval schools.

So what if everyone doesn't get assigned to this well-known ship. Does it matter? It is something else that is important: that each individual be well trained for the military service. From the depths of his heart comes one noble wish--be a true son of the Motherland and serve her selflessly. The path to the ocean is open to everyone.

12511

CSO: 1801/177

CIVIL DEFENSE

CIVIL DEFENSE OFFICIAL DESCRIBES TRAINING ACTIVITIES

LD061854 Vilnius Domestic Service in Russian 1233 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Talk by civil defense official Petras [surname indistinct]]

[Text] New training programs in the civil defense system have made it necessary to review radically the arrangements for providing materials and equipment for the training process. Whereas in the past classroom sessions, lectures and other similar forms of training were predominant, now essential that practical training in methods and actions to be taken in defence against weapons of mass destruction and in carrying out rescue work should first take place in every class and training session. The basic material requirements for training comprise training townlets, civil defense training points, classrooms and training rooms, and civil defense corners which made it possible for everyone to acquire the necessary practical skills.

In accordance with instructions from the USSR Civil Defense headquarters on creation of the training materials base, the leadership and the civil defense headquarters of Oktyabrskiy Rayon in Vilnius have drawn up recommendations which take into consideration the possibilities of industrial objectives and also the numbers of workers and office staff, and the presence of civil defense formations created [words indistinct]. We recommended that a complex of training places, rather than simply a number of training places, should be created for training workers and office staff, and also for the special training of [word indistinct] formations. If one is speaking about the 3-year training of workers, office staff and kolkhoz farmers in civil defense, to the extent of 20 hours each year, then it is very important that one should be able, in the complex of training facilities, to study practically, in literally every one of them, the actions to be taken in response to civil defense signals, the methods of using gas-masks, shelters and antiradiation shelters. Soldiers [Boytsy] and commanders of formations, having completed their general training, undergo special training according to their own program. A more complicated training base is required for them: namely training places and training townlets.

Training townlets have already been set up in towns and in every rayon. In Vilnius city, a course has now been set toward the construction of such townlets at the major objectives of the national economy. Objectives

whose capabilities are smaller are setting up training places, that is to say elements of a training townlet, depending upon the type of production in which they are engaged.

A training townlet at an objective or serving for a group of objectives is a basis for practical training. During civil defense training, due attention is paid to moral and psychological training. For this the training process includes elements of tension and surprise, of danger and of risk, which are characteristic of a real situation. The majority of the republic's rayon training townlets have already been equipped with special strips [polosa]. At the training townlet of Oktrabrskiy Rayon in Vilnius city, by using such a strip and also other elements it is possible to create the most difficult situation for carrying out advanced special training and also competitions between volunteer medical teams under night-time conditions.

We are able to achieve these targets only because national economy objectives in the rayon are taking an active part in the construction and equipping of the elements of the townlet. Among the objectives doing this are the drill factory and the radio-components factory, the (Biokhim) production association, and several others.

School children and students make up a large part of the population. Civil defense is taught them as a separate subject. Improving the quality of the teaching of pupils and young people in civil defense is a particularly important task. Once again, the level of this training depends to a considerable [degree] on the availability of a training materials base. Training townlets, classrooms, training rooms and civil defense corners must be set up at educational establishments.

There are, however, substantial shortcomings in the solution of this question. Individual general educational schools have so far failed to achieve the desired results. The training materials base of, say, the No 29 secondary school in Vilnius is not exemplary, and the school itself is not a methodical center for training the teaching staff of the rayon as a whole in matters of civil defense. Recommendations have been worked out by the rayon's civil defense workers for setting up and further improving the training material base of this school. The grinding tools works, which has patronage over this school, has promised to give all kind of assistance in setting it up. The only thing needed now is the initiative of the teachers and of the pupils of this school.

A great role in training all categories of the population in civil defense is played by the training complex of civil defense objectives. Practical training and consultations on civil defense matters takes place there. At a time, they are set up in protective buildings. It is the task of civil defense heads, especially at those objectives where new shelters are being put into operation, to see that they are not left empty but that they are used immediately for training purposes.

The training point of the city's retail trade and public catering service and the shelters of Vilnius' Oktyabrskiy Rayon and a number of others deserve attention. There is everything necessary here to train the management staff and the engineering and technical personnel of the undertakings subordinate to the services. However, the leadership of these civil defense services has become convinced by practical experience that the training base at these points does not completely satisfy training standards as far as quality is concerned. Having well thought out and planned the renewal of all visual aids, they set about compiling them, and did so by their own efforts.

Commanders and those in charge are trained on civil defense courses. Consequently, the training material base must also be such that those expert in production training will be able to hold classes in a qualified manner. The courses held in the capital's Oktyabrskiy Rayon may serve as an example. Here, technical training resources are widely used. And it has its own training point, located in two shelters, which receives systematically the equipment it requires which is manufactured for training purposes while complex exercises are taking place at the industrial objectives of the rayon.

The course workers are not content with what has been achieved. By decision of (Anton Stepanovich Matyuk), head of civil defense and chairman of the Oktyabrskiy Rayispolkom, and on the personal initiative of [name indistinct], head of the course, this year a room is to be equipped for use directly on courses devoted to material concerning the stable functioning of objectives of the national economy--in other words, a classroom for stability. Experts in production training on these courses, and primarily communists and reserve officers, compile visual aids and some of them submit rationalizers' proposals, the introduction of which will make it possible to improve the efficiency and the quality of training sessions.

Once again I would like to remind you that the provision of materials for training and also the provision of property and instruments for formations is [words indistinct]. Without this the task of training for civil defense cannot be solved successfully.

CSO: 1801/227

CIVIL DEFENSE

VILNIUS CIVIL DEFENSE OFFICER ON AIR RAID MEASURES

LD091204 Vilnius Domestic Service in Russian 1231 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Talk by civil defense official (Vytautas Ariunas)]

[Text] The protection of the population is one of the many tasks that must be solved by the present civil defense. This task is being fulfilled by a whole range of measures the aim of which is to reduce risk to people should the enemy use means of mass destruction.

An important measure to protect the population is the notification to the population of the danger of an enemy air raid and of radioactive and chemical contamination.

Bearing in mind the speed at which the rockets fly, the time to warn the population is mere minutes. So that people can make use of all the existing means of protection, it is essential that all urban and rural population become familiar with civil defense signals and respond accordingly.

We will describe today some civil defense signals and the population's response to them.

When an enemy air raid is imminent, the air raid warning signal is given to the whole population through technical means and automated systems of notification. The air raid signal in towns and other populated areas consists of electronic beeps lasting from 2 to 3 minutes.

The warning is simultaneously given over the cable broadcasting network by the radio transmitting centers in towns and rayons. The warning is repeated several times. The air raid warning signal must be duplicated everywhere by sounding whistles in factories, enterprises and means of transport. This is the only civil defense signal given with the use of electronic sirens.

The behavior of the population after the air raid signal depends to a great extent on where each person finds himself when this signal is given. However, in all cases you must try not to panic. You must take cover in a civil defense shelter or any other nearby shelter.

If the warning finds you at work, at the administration's orders you must stop the machine tool or other production or technological equipment and electric motors, and switch off the gas and electric power. Individual machine units that cannot be stopped at once must be switched over to a safe idling speed. When necessary, carry out all other special measures the enterprise has devised to stop the working equipment as soon as possible without accidents or breakdowns. Then hurry to the shelter allocated to your workshop. In workshops where production equipment cannot be stopped quickly for technical reasons or because of safety requirements, the people in charge of them must use specially prepared individual shelters.

If the air raid warning finds you in a public place--a shop, a theater, a medical or other institution--it is essential to listen calmly to the directives of the administration of these institutions to take shelter and where the nearest shelter is.

After the air raid warning signal, all transport must stop. Passengers must take shelter in the nearest shelter which will be pointed out to you by the officials for the protection of public order and of the non-militarized civil defense formations.

The air raid warning signal may find the majority of the population at home. Having heard this signal you must switch off heating appliances and the gas, extinguish the fire in the stove, collect your documents and individual means of protection, a gas mask, a respirator, an anti-dust mask made of fabric, bandages, a first aid box, essential articles, and stocks of water and food. You must switch off inside and outside lights and then hurry to the nearest refuge or shelter.

If possible, tell your neighbors about the air raid warning. They may not have heard it.

After the air raid warning signal, the whole population must take cover in refuges and shelters. If you are unable to reach the refuge, you may take cover in basements, underground pedestrian walks, production tunnels and transportation tunnels. When there is no underground construction, take cover in trenches, ditches, pits, ravines, thickets, holes or any other depression. In all cases these places must be selected as far away as possible from houses and production buildings.

If you follow these recommendations you will reduce the force of the shock wave and other destructive factors of a nuclear explosion.

Act calmly and orderly in shelters and refuges. Render assistance to old and disabled people and women with children. Help them to reach shelters. In a shelter observe the regulations and carry out the instructions of the officials of non-militarized civil defense formations in charge of that shelter. In a shelter, refuge or other protective building the means of individual protection must be kept ready for use. Stay in the shelter until the all clear signal is given.

If the enemy attack does not take place or if the territory or your town or area was not subjected to radioactive or chemical contamination, the civil defense will give the all clear signal. This signal will be given by radio transmitting centers in towns and rayons over the cable broadcasting network. If the network is destroyed, this signal will be given by mobile loudspeakers and other signalling means. The signal is repeated several times and is accompanied by the sounding of a horn.

After this signal the population may leave shelters and refuges and continue normal production and life. If the territory of a town or area is contaminated with radioactive or other substances dangerous to man the civil defense will give other signals.

We will talk about these signals and how the population should act in our next broadcasts.

CSO: 1801/227

DOSAAF

SCHOOL REFORMS TOUCH DOSAAF PROGRAMS

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 11 Jan 84 p 3

[Interview by I. Romanenko: "School Tomorrow"]

[Text] The Soviet people met with great interest the CPSU Central Committee draft "The Basic Direction of Reform For General Education and Professional Schools" that was introduced for international discussion. National educational workers are studying it with special interest. Our correspondent requested that the Director of the Nikonov Middle School in the Ramenskiy Rayon of the Moscow Oblast and Deputy of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Nadezhda Nikolayevna Zakharova share here ideas on this new stage of national education development.

[Zakharova] We teachers warmly approve this document as a new testimony to the continuous and ever accelerating concern of the Communist Party and Soviet State for the young generation, those who are forthcoming to continue the work of Great October.

The draft envisions improving the structure of education and increasing the level of general education, labor and professional training. Special attention is being placed on indoctrinating the younger generation with the requirements of work, a high feeling of pride for belonging to the socialist Motherland and of constant readiness to defend her.

Certainly, this work is being conducted right now. For example, in the Moscow Oblast extended work training is being done in schools in 78 professions. Of those completing the tenth class last year, 16,000 young men and women replenished the ranks of workers and employees. Every fourth graduate of a village school stayed to work in his native village.

During vacations and when they are free from studies, young people of our village schools work in the sovkhoz. They work at harvest time as assistant combine operators, in workshops and on farms. In the land plot allotted behind the school we annually harvest 400-500 tons of mangelbeet.

Many measures in student military-patriotic indoctrination are conducted in schools. There are thematic evenings, meetings with veterans of war and labor, trips to places of revolutionary, military and labor glory, exercises in the Zarnitsa and Orlenok programs, sports competition and others.

All of this certainly bears fruit. Young people grow up to be real patriots. Those drafted into the army and navy serve perfectly and many chose this as their profession. As an example, not long ago our graduate Serezha Dolzhenkov finished military school and became a cadre officer. A few days ago Misha Kolykhayev visited the school while on a short leave. You had to see how with what delight the children listened to his stories of army life.

And all the same, military-patriotic indoctrination of school children leaves much to be desired. The CPSU Central Committee draft contains the requirement to increase the level and effectiveness of basic military training in general education and professional schools. This is an urgent matter.

We do not have enough highly qualified military instructor cadre, especially in village areas. For example, in our school the military instructor position has been vacant for a long time. Military affairs lessons are conducted by the history teacher Vladimir Il'ich Petrenko. He is an experienced instructor and a veteran of the Great Patriotic War, but with the weight of his own full-time job, he can't become involved in the extra-curricular work. The geography teacher Nina Grigor'yevna Gromova who heads the Poisk club, class instructors and Young Pioneer leaders help him.

We conduct many large-scale activities. However, not all of them make a deep impression on the youngster's spirit. Formalism is still a problem in the content and methods of training-indoctrination work.

[Question] Nakezhda Nikolayevna, what can you say about the activity of the DOSAAF school organization?

[Answer] Soviet schools have many patrons, friends and helpers. The voluntary society of cooperation in the army, aviation and navy are some of these active helpers. Unfortunately, it must be said that our school primary organization DOSAAF is not distinguishing itself by its high activity. The society is made up of all seniorclassmen, but the "activities" of many is limited to payment of membership dues. The DOSAAF committee shows little initiative. And meanwhile they could be doing a lot. We do not have our own firing range or small-caliber weapons. But they could hold regular mass competition firing pneumatic weapons. Or take on this type issue. Our Poisk group while on trips or corresponding with war veterans has accumulated much interesting material and exhibits for a museum of military glory. We have not yet arranged for the museum location, but the processing of this material would be a noble cause for DOSAAF members. It would be worth the committee thinking about organizing technical and model societies and sports sections in technical and military-related sports. Yes, there are many areas if one wants to show initiative.

The question of reforms in our schools is attracting the interest of all social organizations, the interest of families and of all workers. It has prime significance for the further upgrading of economic strength and spiritual potential of the country and the formulation of the new man.

The tomorrow of Soviet schools is seen in the primary direction of the reform. There is no end to the work to implement the reform.

12511

CSO: 1801/177

SPECIAL LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR UZBEKS

Moscow VOYENNIYYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 10, Oct 83 (signed to press 9 Sep 83)
p 20

[Article by F. Reshetnev, chief of the Tashkent Navy School: "The Language of Friendship and Collaboration"]

[Text] At the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenum Russian was designated as the language for multinational training. Really, Russian has received wide dissemination in our country. The majority of non-Russian people speak it as fluently as their native language. But, as was noted at the Plenum, there are still many times when weak knowledge of Russian limits access to the riches of international culture and narrows activities and contact.

We have run into such factors in our Tashkent Navy School DOSAAF. Some premilitary age Uzbeks who spoke Russian poorly happened to come to our school for training. They were primarily lads from areas deep within the republic. We had to teach and thoroughly train them for naval service. But how can one teach such students if they understand only every other word? Besides that, they had to master the equipment, acquire the ability to service it and understand all of the commands. Knowing Russian was indispensable.

At the All-Union Theoretical-Scientific Conference "Russian--the Language of Friendship and Collaboration of the Peoples of the USSR" held in Tashkent in 1975, Candidate Member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and First Secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee Sh.R. Rashidov said, "the interests of defending the achievements of socialism and the contemporary development of military affairs places special demands on young people entering the ranks of our glorious Armed Forces. Only a thorough knowledge of Russian will allow young people to master military equipment and be outstanding in military and political training."

A special resolution on teaching Russian in training organizations of the defense society was adopted by the DOSAAF Central Committee Presidium. The resolution envisions conducting a 50-hour program of exercises with cadets who have a weak knowledge of Russian. Certainly this is not quite enough. This is why we must maximally use all the possibilities to help cadets master spoken Russian and navy terminology. First of all we are selecting the most experienced instructors who have mastered the methodology of teaching a language. We have Yu Lapshin and S. Rastvortsev who have mastered this skill. Instructors from the neighboring pedagogical institution are helping them.

In the process of forming training groups and in the initial instruction period, in the course of about five days, we find all those who speak Russian poorly. As I already noted, usually these are lads from rural areas. We form a special group with them of 20-25 people for supplementary exercises.

By the way, the circumstances in which the young people find themselves is conducive to studying Russian. Let's say a fellow is interested in equipment and wants to know how it is made in greater detail. He has to turn to the accompanying text. And it is written in Russian. The desire to more quickly learn Russian is manifested and he willingly attends the supplemental exercises.

These exercises are conducted five times a week for two hours each. The training texts for soldiers who speak Russian poorly help us greatly in this area. They are prepared by Voennoye Izdatel'stvo. I would like to use this opportunity to thank textbook authors N.V. Yermolayev and I.A. Maslennikov for their good text.

We also have a Russian language study. It is equipped with the most modern devices. Technical training aids are widely used, including tape recorders, dictophones, special training tapes and even a video tape recorder. On this we show short films that help cadets properly pronounce Russian words. Usually these films are on navy subjects.

After the training is completed, exams are held on cards which we developed. The questions on the cards have to be tied with the future navy service of the lads.

As the recent exam showed, those undergoing the training attained significant successes in mastering Russian in a short time. Of the 31 people, 21 passed the exam at the good and excellent levels. And indeed many of these cadets arrived at school without knowing Russian very well at all.

Without question it is impossible to limit exercises to the special group. Therefore we conduct supplemental measures. Thus in the training groups we assign to the cadets with poor knowledge of Russian Uzbek cadets who speak the language well. We seat them at the same desk for the entire training period and watch that they work on the self-paced training and spend their leisure time together.

Cadets from rural areas live in the barracks at the navy school. This gives them the ability twice a week to conduct additional exercises for two hours in the evening. At these exercises the cadets as a rule write dictation on specially developed themes on basic naval affairs and on their future fleet specialty. Such exercises are very effective. I can cite an example. Khikmat Tulyaganov spoke Russian poorly. He did not understand what the instructor was talking about during training in his specialty and could not make out the specifics in the text. And here we succeeded in awakening in Khikmat an interest for Russian. He began to study persistently. By the end of school training he began to speak Russian fluently, easily read any technical description and had mastered naval technology. Last fall Tulyaganov was assigned to the navy. And by 1 May 1983 he had become outstanding in military and political training.

And there are many such examples. We continually use them in indoctrination work when we are convincing Uzbek cadets who speak Russian poorly that mastering it is within everyone's power. Indeed their senior comrades manage this.

In closing I would like to bring up one issue. It usually turns out that the lads who come to us not knowing Russian studied it for several years in school. It appears that teachers in these locations taught them poorly. Educational workers should think about this. Indeed they must take care that not a single draftee who is faced with completing his military obligation experiences difficulty in this area because of poor knowledge of the Russian language.

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DOSAAF

SHOULD DOSAAF STUDENTS WEAR MILITARY UNIFORMS

Moscow VOYENNNYYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 10, Oct 83 (signed to press 9 Sep 83)
p 29

["Review of Letters" section: "What Should the Uniform Be?"]

[Text] Last year's March issue of VOYENNNYYE ZNANIYA had a letter from V. Pobegaylo, an instructor at the Sumy Obkom DOSAAF, entitled "This Is Not A Game." He discussed the fact that several military instructors who were trying to get uniformity in their students' dress required that they buy shirts designated for military personnel. Moreover, in spite of the NVP [initial military training] requirements, they were sewing Armed Forces chevrons and emblems on their sleeves.

This letter provoked lively responses from our military instructor readers. They expressed their opinions on the essence of this issue in letters which at times were highly emotional. Many comrades' point of view is expressed in one word, "rubbish". They say that since the author is not a military instructor, he has therefore not investigated the question of initial military training and military-patriotic work and does not understand how much a single (and not only a single, but one that is similar to an army) uniform disciplines the students.

The military instructor of Kiev's Secondary School No 211, S. Machnev, writes, "I do not know if the author has conducted NVP lessons or if he was a military instructor for a while. It is possible that exercises without army shirts will go off no worse, but I doubt that those training will be more organized, industrious and disciplined and will pick up the seriousness of the subject at hand. I agree with Comrade Pobegaylo that one ought not to make chevrons, etc. But one also ought not to forbid their wearing shirts with a military pattern."

Many comrades, including the military instructor of the Lev Tol'stoy Secondary School in Lipetsk Oblast, A. Bol'nykh, are convinced that protective shirts, ties and forage caps are one of the methods for engendering love and respect for the Soviet Army. There are letters in our mail written by military instructors who consider that there is nothing reprehensible in the fact that homemade and real shoulder boards are on the shoulders of those participating in the "Zarnitsa" and Orlenok" games.

It would apparently not be superfluous to remind everyone about the pertinent points of the NVP basic documents. They state that wearing a uniform and distinctive emblems similar to the uniform and distinctive emblems of USSR Armed Forces servicemen is unauthorized. I might also table such an authoritative source as the Soviet Military Encyclopedia. On page 302 of Volume 8 it states: "MILITARY UNIFORM, the general designation of ALL TYPES (the stress is ours) of military equipment, accouterments and distinctive badges adopted for the personnel of the Armed Forces of the State." We cite this quote for all military instructors, methodologists and NVP instructors who think that military shirts, ties and separate distinctive badges cannot be considered a part of the military uniform.

One also runs into this opinion: once the trainees are told to come to NVP training prepared and dressed in the uniform determined by the training institution, the military instructor and administration feel free to introduce whatever uniform they consider necessary, including the military uniform. This was specifically discussed in the letter from N. Yegorshin, chief of the methodological office of the NVP Mangyshlak Oblast IYY [Institute for Advanced Training for Teachers] (Turkmen SSR). The author asks, "Why does Comrade Pobagaylo castigate people for wearing military shirts and offer the uniform established by the USSR Ministry of Education for schoolboys?"

Many correspondents categorically declare that the effectiveness of NVP instruction depends primarily on whether the lads have on green army shirts or not. They also write that these shirts, ties and forage caps discipline the military instructor himself, obligating him to come to the exercises in a military uniform. It is impossible to agree with this. Military instructors, reserve officers and retirees must be guided by the instructions of the NVP program which states that wearing a military uniform is a must.

Almost all of the letters received by the editor said that military instructors must struggle for uniformity in clothing at NVP lessons since few of the pupils in schools and PTU [professional technical schools] wear the uniform established for these training instructions. Military instructor I. Izbash (Secondary School No 6 from the Moscow Oblast city of Mytishch), for example, stresses that in many schools the administration and class leaders cannot cope with students who show up at the exercises in jeans that are dirty, threadbare, etc. In his words this is where military shirts and ties saves the day.

It is thought that this topic should be entirely different--teaching taste in dressing.

The authors of a number of letters indicate that school uniforms or uniforms for PTU students are not adaptable for tactics and range firing. The military instructor from Kiev Secondary School No 2, B. Rodimov, writes (a school uniform is indicated) "Imagine students' appearance after exercises if, for example, they worked out such problems as movement in combat..."

Let us again look at the NVP program. There it is written that in tactical exercises and marksmanship training conducted in the field, out of doors or on the firing range, young people will come seasonally dressed with headgear and in work (sports) clothing.

Further, Comrade Rodimov feels that uniform clothing is necessary for NVP (in his words it "must be military...and not school") and proposes using young people's dress parade uniform for NVP military study work and a specially designed field uniform for field training and range firing. A single model should be approved for all training institutes in the country.

A single special shirt is necessary for NVP lessons in the opinion of military instructors M. Boychenko and L. Sobenin (Kiev Secondary Schools No 213 and 39). They must be comfortable, practical, not easily soiled and should include a tie and forage cap of the same color. This uniform should be centrally issued. Shoulder boards and distinctive badges for servicemen (in this the authors of the letters agree with Comrade Pobegaylo) should under no circumstances be used. They proposed thinking about distinctive badges for platoon and section commanders.

And here is what Yu. Zonis, military instructor at the Lvov scientific-credit technical school writes. "If there were a single uniform designated for schools and PTU's, we would unquestionably strive to have pupils observe it. But there are technical schools and institutions that have no uniform." And the author, stressing that a single uniform facilitates increased student discipline, organization and appearance, further proposes that a uniform along the lines of that worn by students for military training at VUZ [institution of higher learning] be developed for such training institutions.

We are citing a few lines from the letter sent by V. Mel'nikov, military instructor at the Donetsk PTU Oblbytupravleniye [oblast domestic administration]. "In training institutions according to tradition the question of establishing a single uniform for NVP and military sports games which would not have elements of service uniforms has not been resolved. The appropriate ministries and departments must issue definite instructions on this question and must forbid the distortion of Armed Forces uniforms by the use of imitations."

Military instructor at Secondary School No 101 in Krasnoyarsk S. Arkhipov writes that judges at the "Zarnitsa" and "Orlenok" finals often look through their fingers at Pioneers and Komsomolites dressed in uniforms that are sometimes direct copies or very similar to military uniforms.

Such examples are evidence that not all comrades in areas involved in NVP for young people and in military sports games are strictly guided by the documents regulating the wearing of uniforms by future servicemen and participants in the "Zarnitsa" and "Orlenok" games. The requirements of these documents must be followed.

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MILITARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

MOTOR VEHICLE ENGINEERING SCHOOL TRAINING DISCUSSED

Moscow VOYENNYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 10, Oct 83 (signed to press 9 Sep 83)
pp 6-7

[Interview with Lieutenant General of Engineers V. Pavlov, Chief of Ryazan Higher Motor Vehicle Engineering School, "Ryazan Automotive..."]

[Text] Respected Comrades!

I have seen with interest the material in the magazine dealing with the life and training of cadets in various military schools. But to date I have not seen publications that discuss where they train motor vehicle officers. Could you cover this area?

V. Tarasenko, student of the 10 "b" class, Svatovskaya Secondary School No 8, Voroshilovgrad Oblast

Other readers have made similar requests to the editor. Answering their requests, we are publishing an interview which the chief of the Ryazan Order of Red Star Higher Motor Vehicle Engineering School Lieutenant General V. Pavlov gave our correspondent V. Sinyutin.

[Question] The profession of motor vehicle officers interests many young readers of VOENNYE ZNANIYA. They want to know the history of motor vehicle schools, including yours at Ryazan, and what caused them to be developed. Comrade Lieutenant General, could you say a little about this?

[Answer] With pleasure. Our school was the first of this type of military training school and formed in April 1940. By this time the motor vehicle fleet of the Red Army had grown sharply. Motor vehicle transport units and subunits of various designations had been formed. For example, the First Army Group during military operations on the Khalkhin-Gol River had all the artillery on mechanized movers and had fully motorized military transportation. A rifle division had approximately 600 motor vehicles, the rifle regiment, 80 and the howitzer artillery regiment had 130. All of this significantly increased force maneuverability and allowed successful military operations.

To operate and service the large mass of motor vehicles coming into the force, there had to be well-trained specialists. Thus arose the requirement for special training institutions.

During the years of the Great Patriotic War the institute had several graduations. Our pupils took part in many large-scale battles and drove vehicles along the Road of Life, delivering weapons, ammunition and food to besieged Leningrad and bringing out the wounded, sick and children. For model fulfillment of missions, the command groups of 15 motor vehicle units and groups received honored designations and many were awarded decorations. Eleven motor vehicle soldiers became Heroes of the Soviet Union and among them was Senior Lieutenant Sergey Ivanovich Polezhaykin who, by order of the USSR Minister of Defense, will forever be listed on the institute's first company.

In the post-war years the institute underwent significant qualitative changes. In 1974 it became a higher engineering institution. This fact says much about the growth of the role of motor vehicle officers in providing the high combat readiness in units and formations. The vehicular fleet of the Soviet Army and Navy became more complicated and more saturated. Diversified, specialized vehicles, powerful tower-prime movers, fuel trucks, cranes, etc appeared. It was necessary to be able to operate and skillfully service them. Therefore our graduates must have a good level of knowledge and hard practical skills in order to make the necessary contribution to resolving problems as decreed in the speech by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yu. V. Andropov at the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenum. These are aimed at guaranteeing the security of our country, our friends and allies and increasing the military might of the Soviet Armed Forces which are a powerful factor in containing the aggressive aspirations of imperialist reaction.

[Question] What is being done to increase the effectiveness of the training process?

[Answer] At the first level, as in any military collective, we have the problem of providing organization and firm regulatory order in all subunits and at any project. Our graduates are first of all officers and indoctrinators for subordinates and disciplinary standard-bearers. Daily attention is put on inculcating those qualities.

Further improvement of the material training base is considered an especially important matter. The cadets receive the most modern examples of automotive and track equipment in their instruction. We do more and more laboratory work where the cadets themselves conduct various research projects. They receive hard skills also in working on machine equipment and instruments.

There are televisions, projectors and other technical instruction equipment in all the lecture halls. This allows the instructors to get good assimilability by teaching a higher volume of material in a shorter time. The study of specific equipment is done at a set pace: posters, drafts, assemblies and then the vehicle.

The command group and political department of the institute are trying to get each department to actively introduce the most effective forms and methods of teaching and to have the foremost experience of the best instructors didactically propagated. Today we are rightfully proud of the highly qualified cadre. Among the professor-instructor body are nearly 40 people who have academic degrees and ranks. These include automotive specialists, mathematicians, physicists, historians and philosophers. Many of them took part in the Great Patriotic War and their personal experience in supplying military operations serves as a worthy example for the future motor vehicle officers. Colonels of Engineers G. Yumagulov, V. Miridonov and A. Kopylov are able to explain any complicated question simply, intelligibly and convincingly. Their cadets respect them and young instructors learn from them.

[Question] What do the cadets do in extra-curricular activities?

[Answer] Under the leadership of the party and Komsomol organizations, the cadets do much social work. The "Poisk" club which collects and systematizes material on the advances of motor vehicle soldiers in the war years is active. The institute's Komsomol personnel care for seven secondary schools in Ryazan and the DOSAAF organization in the Ryazan farm machinery plant. The military-patriotic school "Young Automobilers" where 50 personnel recommended by the Komsomol raykom work is successfully operating. Many of these people fill the cadet ranks. Our comrades very actively participated in the organization of the "Zarnitsa" and "Orlenok" games. During these times, the sports complexes, stadiums and club were not empty. Thus each cadet found an exercise to show his talent and ability.

[Question] Comrade Lieutenant General, the young people who sent letters to the magazine want to know what they can do next year to better prepare for entrance exams.

[Answer] Yes, not all of the graduates who came to us this year put on a cadet uniform. Many of them failed. It was certainly evident that they received their return trip documentation with sadness. But competition is competition.

Young people who have decided to come to our institute next year must pay the most attention to physics and mathematics. We train engineers. Therefore, one must not learn by rote but must understand the essence of the material studied and be able to apply it to resolve problems and examples and explain various phenomena.

A composition is written on Russian language and literature and those completing national schools must write a summary or dictation.

Physical training is checked according to the exercises of the All-Union Physical Complex GTO [group technological organization].

All other things being equal, those people who are recommended by Komsomol raykom and who actively participate in school and class activities, are disciplined, doers and have a firm desire to dedicate their lives to service in the

Armed Forces of the USSR have an advantage. There is still time to hurry and make up for many things. We are awaiting you, dear fellows.

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AFGHANISTAN

RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY COMMANDER IN AFGHANISTAN PROFILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Dec 83 p 4

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel of Engineers V. Sukhodol'skiy: "Reconnaissance Officer: Features to the Likeness of Reconnaissance Company Commander, Senior Lieutenant Igor Ploskonos"]

[Text] "Come along to the reconnaissance men in K., " said the General . "I advise you to meet Senior Lieutenant Ploskonos. Do you believe in military talent? I am convinced--that is it, military talent! Like the talent of an artist, a writer, a musician."

I took off in the morning to the reconnaissance men. I met the reconnaissance company commander, Igor' Ploskonos, when the sun had already climbed swiftly to the horizon.

"Can we have some pictures taken? And may I take one of Lieutenant Sidorenko?"

"You may."

"And how about Private Duyunov?"

"You may."

"And Private Lipnitskov?"

"You may."

"Let's go."

We went along the steppe, and Igor', having bent over, asked. "Come, if you'd like, to the soldiers of the photograph. You know, there will be happiness. There's not always so much of it here. There's no time left for it. We won't be in the cantonment. We arrived yesterday, but we're leaving again tonight, for four days to protect the Afghan convoys."

One of the company's officers was on leave. His bunk was free, so they gave it to me to spend the night with the reconnaissance men. We went down to supper.

We smoked. We listened to songs performed by Vladimir Vysotskiy. "There are no reasons for stopping, I am going, slipping, but there are no such heights in the world that can't be taken...And especially those which lie here, of snow. There is, among the untrodden roads, one--mine." Vasiliy Kravchenko, a Senior Lieutenant and secretary of the subunit party organization, brought us his own tape recorder.

And then, we talked. About life, about wives, about children. About good people, about our wonderful land which, perhaps, you genuinely know and treasure only when you have been separated from it for a long time.

Igor' himself is from Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, from Pavlograd. A former Suvorovets, he studied in Kiev. Therefore, color photographs were hanging on the wall over his bed. The Dnepr, a monument above the river, Mother Country with a sword, ancient Sophia, a cathedral which stood in the very heart of the wonderful town. A man is fond of them in a few minutes of rest, and they gave him strength and joy. Igor' discussed how he studied in the Suvorov Academy, how on the night before graduation, by tradition they had to climb, without fail, to Vladimir Hill, to the Vladimir Monomakh monument.

To the question whom in the Suvorov Academy did he remember for his whole life, he answered without a moment's hesitation, Warrant Officer Kovalenko, the company first sergeant, Colonel Shcheblakov, the director of the training department, and a Hero of the Soviet Union. "Strict, fair. Often we remember such people."

In his years of study in the Baku Higher Combined Arms Command School imeni Azerbaidzhan SSR Supreme Soviet, Igor' became a master of sport in the officers' all-round combined tournament. This means that he fired the pistol very accurately, ran excellently, and swam well, even in gymnastic gear.

"You know," said Igor', "I'll be thankful to the school my whole life. The soldiers look on me like on a god because I can do everything myself. Do you think the company would have been better if there were no sports? No, never. There was this occurrence in the spring, in Marmolskoe Ravine. They landed us, in an exercise, in Bazarak Pass. Snow was lying there. The month was March. A mission was given for three days. We took dry rations for these days. They 'pecked' at us firmly. The 'enemy' was found to be strong and competent. They brought up mortars. For ten days and nights we defended there instead of three."

"The company proved itself well. They landed us there in the rain. Suddenly freezing weather and wind hit us. All of our clothes were covered with ice, but we conducted reconnaissance. We neither lit a fire nor warmed ourselves. True, we didn't think about water--snow was laying there, the water was distilled. As it is said, there was both cold and hunger but all returned alive and well. And nobody was frostbitten. Time for hardening was never regretted. My soldiers loved that endeavor, because I myself loved it. Again I say to the school, 'thank you'. Whom, in Baku, will I remember forever? The company commander, Captain Galomidov. The chief of the political department, Colonel Avakyan, Hero of the Soviet Union."

"I got married after the third course. I have known Tat'yana since the seventh class, since the Young Pioneer camp. Tat'yana bore me a daughter; we named her Marina. She was two years old on 18 September. She was born in Blagoveshchensk--the first month of my service, and of my family life. Have you been there?"

And, having learned that I had been there, Ploskonos began to talk about a town on the Amur, of his first platoon, of his future service.

"And now--Afghanistan. For these one and a half years I have crawled all around on my belly. I have become friends with many Afghans, and will consider them that forever. Lieutenant Colonel Tach Mukhammad--we came across him, wounded, in a ravine, when we were on a reconnaissance for night operations. I carried him myself, I gave him to no one. The commander of a local operational battalion, tsarandoya Ali Dzhon--we call him Alik--was a desperate fellow, wounded twice. We treated him ourselves."

"These are real warriors. Many have neither family nor parents. Bandits had slaughtered them. The army for them was both a job and a home."

"Afghanistan for me--they are an open people. How many wonderful comrades are serving with me. Write it down, there will be joy for them, to read about themselves. Lieutenant Aleksandr Sidorenko and I studied together at Baku. Lieutenant Chitalkin, Sergey. I'm sure he won't lose his head in any situation."

"Of the soldiers--senior scout-machinegunner, Private Shibalov, Anatoliy, a fellow conscientious in all respects. Brave. A genuine reconnaissance soldier. He was with me everywhere. One of these days he'll go home. He has a medal 'For Valor'.

Seryezha Visgalov, a fellow from Penza; when he injured his arm in the mountains, he himself dressed it and told no one anything about it while they had not fulfilled the mission. And also Sergeant Aleksey Laptev and Sergeant Andrey Kovbasyuk."

I was listening to Ploskonos and thinking that in the same way, in the Great Patriotic War, his father, Nikolay Ploskonos, felt safe when outstanding people were next to him. Soldiers and officers, Russians, Ukrainians, and Uzbeks. The strength of military comradeship and army brotherhood. Here in Afghanistan, this is displayed particularly. It helps in work. It makes people happy when they realize army brotherhood in their heart and in their mind. I was listening to Ploskonos and thinking it was my good fortune that journalistic fate brought me here, gave me the opportunity to meet, talk, and photograph such people as Igor' Ploskonos.

He was sitting on a bed in a faded field jacket, his lower lip split in the middle, in no way healing; his face was a dark red color from the strong Afghan sun, and such arms. His eyes were blue. And he had a black, "Spanish", moustache. He wrote in letters to his wife everything of his affairs. We help, they say, to build roads, the hands are in cement. Therefore she knows that here he walks over all the mountain paths, as he once did in Blagoveshchensk.

His commander, Lieutenant Colonel Valeriy Tikhonov, in a discussion of Igor', pronounced the very same word as had the general in Kabul. "Talent." And the assistant platoon leader, Sergeant Rashid Marufkhodzhayev said, "I was a student of the Samarkand Food Technical Insittute. Senior Lieutenant Ploskonos made a reconnaissance soldier out of me. As long as I shall live, I'll remember him. I was with him at Marmolskoe Ravine as well."

Sergeant Marufkhodzhayev also has a reward. Soon he will return home, to his native Uzbekistan. He will arrive. They will prepare a festive meal. They'll sit at the table. His parents, sister Lolita, brother Ravshan. What will they talk about? About comrades--Shibalov, Laptev, and Yevgrafov. About the comrade commander.

And now--about happiness itself. Senior Lieutenant Igor' Nikoloyevich Ploskonos, son of a front-line officer, from the town of Pavlograd, where his mother Maria Yakovlevna, his grandmother Anastasia Vasil'yevna, his wife Tat'yana, daughter Marina, and sister Lida now live. Their Igor', the only male in the family--a reconnaissance company commander, former student of Pavlograd School No 11, alumni of the Kiev Suvorov Academy and student of the Baku School--by Order of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, for bravery and valor displayed while fulfilling international duty in Afghanistan, was awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

I phoned the awards department of the USSR Ministry of Defense Main Directorate for Cadres. I asked, "Is Senior Lieutenant Ploskonos really the very youngest Hero of the Soviet Union?" They answered me, "No, there are younger."

Youth. It is not preparation for future life. It is life itself, its most striking page. And let it be like that of Tukhachevskiy, commanding armies at the age of twenty-five, like that of Shchors, Nikolay Ostrovskiy, and Marshal Zhukov. Like that of Igor' Ploskonos, Senior Lieutenant, Hero of the Soviet Union.

I learned of his award and thought. In Russian, Ukranian, Uzbek, and Belorussian towns and villages live and work soldiers of Senior Lieutenant Ploskonos who have returned home, with whom he "crawled over all that land on his belly." They will read the newspaper with pride, for their company and for their commander. They will remember their cantonment, the right paths, helicopter landings, and the rushes. This is their reward. A higher award to the company. It was given simply to the best from the best.

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AFGHANISTAN

COMMENTS ON AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM IN AFGHANISTAN

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 22 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by V. Volkodav, TASS correspondent, especially for SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN', Kabul: "Resolving the Agrarian Problem"]

[Text] A just resolution of the agrarian question in the DRA (Democratic Republic of Afghanistan), from the first days of the revolution, has been one of the most important directions of the actions of the Peoples' Democratic Party of Afghanistan and of the revolutionary government of the country. The overwhelming majority of the democratic Afghanistan population is engaged in agriculture, the production of which comprises a large part of the gross national product and provides a significant portion of exports.

Near-universal illiteracy of the peasantry, the presence of pre-feudal and feudal remnants in land tenure and organization of production, low culture of agriculture, and a retarded material base--all these, for a period of many decades, turned the agriculture of Afghanistan into a factor impeding development of the country. The 1978 April revolution presented new tasks in the sphere of agriculture, the most important of which were limiting property of the large-scale landowners and distribution of land among the peasants having little or none.

A revolutionary people, perpetrating the April revolution, they set about a fundamental rebuilding of agrarian relations on the basis of a comprehensive land and water reform. Realization of the decrees of the DRA Revolutionary Council on abolishing all pre-revolution debts of the peasants to landowners and moneylenders, and even on the redistribution of the nation's available land fund, undermined the base of the large-scale landowners. Today more than 105,000 families already have received free land. With a view of more equitable distribution under state control water resources, having key importance in conditions of the arid climate of Afghanistan, have been taken. In order to help the small holdings, national authorities annually provide them, with favorable conditions, tens of thousands of tons of seed and chemical fertilizer, and grant monetary credit.

Qualified help is given to agricultural and cattle raising enterprises in the struggle with field pests and diseases of domestic animals. In the first half of the current year alone, five million fruit trees were given a special treatment against pests and disease, 24,000 hectares of arable land were treated with

pesticides, and more than five million domestic cattle were covered with veterinary help. Last year the amount of service, rendered to cooperatives and individual peasant farms by state machine-tractor stations, doubled. Effective utilization of agricultural machinery, at the disposal of MTS's (Machine-Tractor Stations) in the provinces of Baglan, Kunduz, Herat, and Kabul, already have exerted a wholesome effect on the economic development of these regions.

The revolutionary leadership of the DRA constantly is following the implementation of land and water reforms in the country. In a session of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council, which took place the other day, a draft of amendments and additions to the decree on land reform was accepted, which will give new stimulus to the development of national agriculture and raise the interest of peasants in problems of reform and increasing the amount of produce. The new measures, wrote the newspaper KHAKIKATE INKILABE SAUR, are aimed at attracting a broad mass of peasants to direct participation in observing the law on land and water reform. The practical participation of peasants in carrying out the reform will add a democratic and truly national character to the transformation in the village. The General Secretary of the NDPA (Peoples' Democratic Party of Afghanistan) Central Committee and President of the DRA Revolutionary Council B. Karmal, stated that revolutionary reforms in the Afghan countryside are the realization of one of the NDPA goals, an accomplishment for which the party has struggled since the day of its formation.

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